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Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XX, Issue No. 289 | SATURDAY DECEMBER 4, 2010 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢





OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Compared to last year's, how much do you intend to spend this Christmas season?

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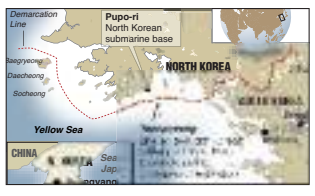
INSIDE



Censure

Veteran Rep. Charles Rangel is censured by his House colleagues for financial misconduct.

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Counter Strike

South Korea's new defense minister says he will bomb North Korea if it stages another attack.

ASIA...Page 11



Best Picture

The National Board of Review chooses "The Social Network" as best film of the year.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 21

Over 10 doctors apply for Tinian center assignment

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The physician position at the Tinian Health Center has suddenly become a plum assignment, with the Department of Public Health confirming yesterday that more than 10 doctors have applied for the job left behind by Dr. Priyantha Wijayagunaratne.

Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez told *Saipan Tribune* that as many as 15 physicians have signified their interest to work at the Tinian Health Center.

However, the decision still lies with Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz and the health center's resident director, Villagomez said.



Villagomez

"We have a list of potential candidates and we're looking at 10 to 15 [applicants]. They are now being reviewed by the mayor and the resident director for final selection," said Villagomez, adding that the terms of contract, salary, and other issues are not DPH's responsibility.

None of the candidates, however, are from Com-

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Tinian cemetery rape case suspect found not guilty

» Jurors deliberate for just 2 hours
» OAG's 3rd successive rape trial defeat in a month

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

After less than two hours of deliberation yesterday, a Tinian Superior Court jury handed down a not guilty verdict against a man accused of kidnapping and raping a drunk woman at a Tinian cemetery.

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ON LIKELY HOUSE SHAKEUP

Benavente breaks silence



By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

House minority leader Diego Benavente (R-Saipan) broke his silence yesterday on his possible re-election as speaker when a motion is made to reorganize the House during a session on Tuesday.

"If there's an opportunity to be elected as speaker, I welcome that opportunity. I

See BENAVENTE on Page 4

NMC INTERNATIONAL DAY

Northern Marianas College students and members of the Micronesian Club, Chamorro Club, Students Achieving for Excellence Club, and Proa Music Society pose for a group photo during the annual NMC International Day held on Thursday, Dec. 2, 2010. The event was organized by the Associated Students of NMC in collaboration with clubs and student organizations at the college to celebrate and teach about the various cultures in the community. Other participants of the event are Phi Theta Kappa, Natural Resources Management Club, and the NMC Upward Bound program. NMC

CUC beats EPA deadline, submits interim financial plan. PAGE 2
Continental to resume Rota flights on April 29. PAGE 3

Local

CUC beats EPA deadline, submits interim financial plan

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Despite widespread apprehension it wouldn't deliver, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. submitted its interim financial plan to the Environmental Protection Agency before the Nov. 30 deadline.

CUC chief financial officer Charles Warren said yesterday that the plan, required under stipulated order No. 1, was filed with the EPA by the close of business Tuesday.

Warren said the financial plan describes in significant detail the revenues, expenses, and cash expenditures forecast of CUC for fiscal years 2010, 2011, and 2012.

It was learned that the 2011 portion of the IFP was used as the basis for the electric base rate hearing, which will be heard by the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission in February 2011.

Warren said EPA has until Jan. 14, 2011, to approve the financial plan or give comments on additional information needed.

He refused to release further details about the plan until the EPA approves it or gives comments.

The stipulated order and the second joint stipulation between CUC and EPA require CUC to submit an organizational evaluation and reorganization plan, complete with a detailed schedule, to improve the agency's efficiency and reflect organizational changes. EPA earlier notified the U.S. District Court for the NMI that the organizational evaluation CUC submitted on Oct. 15, 2010, did not satisfy the stipulated order and second joint stipulation requirements.

It said what CUC submitted was a progress report describing the agency's process of evaluating its organization.

The federal government has given the CNMI until November 2011 to address all the concerns in the two stipulated orders issued to CUC in March 2009.

The stipulated orders set the requirements and deadlines for CUC to meet. These orders represent the agreement between the CNMI and EPA based on the requirements of the Clean Air Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act.

Senate poised to approve hiring of 6 at DPH, CJPA

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Senate is poised to approve on Thursday the hiring of five employees at the Department of Public Health and one at the Criminal Justice and Planning Agency.

Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) said yesterday his two joint resolutions call for the approval of such hiring.

Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez asked Senate President Paul Manglona (R-Rota) and House Speaker Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) to approve the hiring of one social worker 1 and clinical attendant 1 at the Community Guidance Center. These two positions have been vacant since July 19 and Nov. 6, respectively.

Villagomez also asked for legislative approval for DPH to hire for three new positions under Fiscal Year 2011 also within the Community Guidance Center. These include a clinical psychologist, a Transitional Living Center manager, and a special assistant for grants management.

The health secretary said funding is available for the full personnel costs associated with these vacancies and the filling of the four vacancies fall within the 13 full-time employee positions under two accounts.

"The filling of these positions is very important to the efficient delivery of essential mental challenge services and ultimately the welfare of the CNMI community. These positions are essential employees," Villagomez told the lawmakers.

Jerome Ierome, CJPA executive director, said in a separate letter to Manglona and Tenorio that CJPA needs to immediately hire an accountant "to assure that a balance in federal or local funds are accounted for at any point and time."

"It is very important for CJPA to retain this position if we expect financial efficiency and accountability of our limited resources. Your support for approval to fill this vacancy is an action well taken considering the federal resources in grants that CJPA, Office of the Governor, received annually from the U.S. Department of Justice," Ierome said.



Customs officer gets 89 days of house arrest for firing gun

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Superior Court has placed under house arrest a female Customs officer who fired a gun several times outside her home in Kagman III while under the influence of alcohol.

Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo sentenced Customs officer Ramona M. Magofna to six months in prison, all suspended except for 90 days, for unlawful carrying of a firearm and disturbing the peace, with credit for the one day she had already served in jail.

The 38-year-old Magofna was allowed to serve the 89 days under house arrest. She may leave the house only for medical purposes and with her mother as custodian.

After serving her sentence, Magofna will be placed on one year of supervised probation.

She was ordered to pay a $250 fine, $100 court assessment fee, and $100 probation fee. She was required to perform 75 hours of community service and undergo anger management counseling.

Magofna's sentence will run concurrent with her sentence in a traffic case.

In that case, the judge sentenced Magofna to six months in prison, all suspended except for 40 days, with credit for the one day she had already served in prison, for reckless driving. She will also serve this sentence under house arrest.

The judge allowed the defendant to drive to and from work during her probation.

He ordered Manglona to pay a $1,000 fine, $25 court assessment fee, and $60 probation fee.

Magofna signed a plea agreement to resolve the criminal and traffic cases without a trial. She pleaded guilty to unlawful carrying of a firearm, and disturbing the peace. In the traffic case, she pleaded guilty to reckless driving. The remaining charges in both cases were dismissed.

The case arose from a May 15, 2009, incident on Saipan, when Magofna fired a .223 rifle several times while under the influence of alcohol, annoying and disturbing persons in the area.

The DUI case happened at 4:49am on Oct. 9, 2009, when a traffic officer pulled Magofna over along Monsignor Guerrero Road near the Northern Marianas College.

According to a police report, police officers responded to Kagman III after they received a call about gunshots at a residential area on May 15, 2009 at 2:15am.

Officers recovered at the scene a .223 rifle, 12 empty casings, and four live rounds of .223 ammunitions.

Magofna, who was intoxicated, told police she had just come from Koberville where she had a drinking session with other persons. She reportedly admitted to the officers that she fired her gun because she was tired of her neighbors messing up her flowers.

A detective said one resident was shaking upon hearing the gunshots because of a previous experience in Guam where a person was hit by a stray bullet.

A house with seven children was just next door to where the shots were fired, police said.

Continental to resume Rota flights on April 29

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Continental Airlines has now given a more specific date of April 29, 2011 for the resumption its twice weekly flights to Rota, which will be six months after it halted the air service on Oct. 5 for required aircraft maintenance.

The Rota air service is operated by Continental Connection partner, Cape Air, using ATR aircraft with 46 economy class seats.

Andrew Bonney, vice president of planning for Cape Air, said that this weekend, Continental Airlines "will load into the reservations system our return to Rota, effective with the summer schedule which starts on April 29, 2011."

"We are re-introducing the two weekly flights, and are eager to find opportunities for additional flying in support of festivals, special events, or special requests," Bonney said in a Nov. 29 letter to Senate President Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota), who has been pushing for the resumption of flights to the island.

Manglona said he is thankful for Continental's resumption of flights to Rota, which depends largely on tourism to fuel its economy.

"As Rota continues to attract tourists (to) our natural wonders, and the recent addition of casino gaming, I know we will have opportunities to increase our working partnership," Manglona said.

Sen. Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota), chairman of the Rota Legislative Delegation, lauded yesterday Continental/Cape Air for living up to its promise to return after a temporary suspension.

"This will really help our people and our tourism. As you know, our main industry on Rota is tourism and we rely on Continental to bring in tourists not only from Guam but also from other countries," he said.

With Continental's halting of its service to Rota since October, only Freedom Air has been providing air transportation to and from the island.

Ayuyu said Freedom Air has also been a reliable partner.

"Freedom Air is one of the most patient companies in the Commonwealth. They have been a big help to residents and patients. I give them a five-star rating," he added.

Flores eyes reducing incentive program for SHEFA scholars

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan Mayor Donald Flores would rather reduce the assistance provided scholars of the Saipan Higher Educational Financial Assistance than suspend some of SHEFA's scholarship programs.

Flores said the cuts in assistance could be made on students who fail to maintain the required grade point average. At the same time, SHEFA could give out uniform financial aid to scholars under the grant-in-aid program, he said.

Grant-in-aid, one of the three scholarship programs under SHEFA, provides $1,200 to on-island scholars per semester and $2,000 to off-island beneficiaries.

"We need to cut or minimize the amount we provide to our scholars such as the incentives. We should limit the award to those students who excel in their field of studies," Flores said yesterday.

The Saipan mayor also wants the private sector to help SHEFA continue some of its programs, an option he believes is a win-win situation for all concerned.

Due to the significant decline in poker revenues—the main source of funds for scholarship programs—Flores said it is high time to partner with the private sector in ensuring that students could continue their studies.

"We need to come up with a matching fund for our programs. We can ask hotels to help these scholars continue and finish their programs through a memorandum of agreement. In this way, students can also be guaranteed jobs after college," said the mayor.

The number of poker machines in the Commonwealth has declined dramatically in the last six years, from over 1,400 in 2004 to only 576 active machines at present—a loss of 59 percent.

This fiscal year, the government projects to collect $6.912 million from these existing machines, mainly from license fees and other costs.

"We have to slice the pie… and that's the board's priority in its next meetings. Funding is the challenge here and we need to take action," newly elected SHEFA board Jose Mafnas earlier told *Saipan Tribune*.

Poker operators pay a $12,000 annual license fee for each machine on Saipan and $10,000 on Rota and Tinian. The Saipan local government gets 50 percent of the license fee or $6,000, while Tinian and Rota local governments get $4,000 from each machine. The rest of the money goes to the general revenue fund.

There were some 1,414 poker machines in the CNMI in late 2005, contributing some $16.4 million to government coffers. SHEFA received $3 million annually for its programs.

1-day sentence for man in pot possession

A man arrested last month for cultivating marijuana plants at his home was sentenced to one day in prison, with credit for the one day he had already served in jail, which means he immediately goes free.

Benedicto T. Lizama was sentenced Thursday to two months in prison, all suspended except for one day, for the crime of possession of a controlled substance.

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo gave the 38-year-old Lizama credit for his one-day stay in jail.

Lizama was placed on two years of supervised probation, ordered to pay a $500 fine, $100 court assessment fee, and $100 probation fee, and required to perform 20 hours of community service.

He will have a review hearing on Dec. 8, 2011, to determine whether he has complied with the conditions of his sentence.

Chief Prosecutor Michael L. Ernest charged Lizama with trafficking of a controlled substance and possession of a controlled substance.

Lizama pleaded guilty to possession as part of a plea bargain. The remaining charge was dismissed.

Customs officer Sean White and a detective had gone to Lizama's house on Oct. 17, 2010, after receiving information from a concerned citizen that he was growing marijuana at his house. White said they saw one marijuana tree above a tin wall next to Lizama's semi-concrete house, which is located within 1,000 feet from the San Roque Elementary School. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

USCG, Navy rescue Rota diver

HONOLULU—Search and rescue coordinators from Coast Guard Sector Guam partner with crewmembers from the Navy Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron-25 to save a missing diver off the eastern coast of Rota, near Alaguan Bay, Guam, Thursday.

Coast Guard Sector Guam received a call Thursday night from Saipan Emergency Management Office of a missing person in the water off the eastern coast of Rota, near Alaguan Bay.

Coast Guard Sector Guam received a call Thursday from the Saipan Emergency Management Office concerning a missing diver. Search and rescue coordinators dispatched the Coast Guard Cutter Washington, homeported in Apra Harbor, and requested assistance from the HSC-25. A Rota Department of Public Safety small boat also responded.

The aircrew aboard HSC-25 arrived on scene and located the missing diver who was clinging to rocks. The helicopter crew hoisted and transported the diver to U.S. Naval Hospital Guam.

"This case is a textbook example of our inter-agency cooperation and the dedicated professionalism of personnel involved in the search and rescue system," said Lt. Steve Olivera, Coast Guard Sector Guam's command duty officer during the rescue. "The coordination between Coast Guard Sector Guam, Navy Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron-25, and local Department of Public Safety crewmembers saved a life tonight."

The Coast Guard reminds mariners the importance of having a buddy when in the ocean, and early notifications for missing persons at sea. For Guam maritime emergencies, call the Coast Guard 24 hours a day at (671) 564-USCG or 911. ***(USCG)***

Sobriety checkpoints on Rota

The Department of Public Safety will be conducting sobriety checkpoints on Rota on Dec. 7, 2010.

The first checkpoint will be held along San Francisco Highway by Sinapalo I by IT&E building, from 8:30pm to 9:45pm. The second will be conducted in Sinapalo I by San Isidro Church, from 11pm to 12:15am.

Each checkpoint will last at least 75 minutes (1 hour 15 minutes) at each location. Checkpoints are subject to be terminated if it begins to rain.

Police officers will also be conducting highway criminal interdictions, saturation patrol, aggressive driver interdictions, and laser activities.

This activity is part of the department's efforts to ensure that all vehicle operators are not driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol. ***(PR)***

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NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

ON AN APPLICATION FOR A QUALIFYING CERTIFICATE AUTHORIZING THE ABATEMENT OF CERTAIN CNMI TAXES

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that:

A. ***Public hearing.*** In accordance with the Investment Incentive Act of 2000, as amended, and pursuant to the rule-making procedures of the Administrative Procedures Act, the Commonwealth Development Authority (CDA) will conduct a public hearing at the *Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe, Saipan*, on *Tuesday, December 7*, 2010, at *10:00 a.m.* on the application of *Sandy Beach Homes, LLC*, Applicant, for a Qualifying Certificate, which request is for tax relief by way of abatement of CNMI taxes in consideration of Applicant's proposed *construction of a residential complex*, all pursuant to the Investment Incentive Act of 2000, as amended, and as set out in the Applicant's application for a Qualifying Certificate.

B. ***Nature of hearing.*** This hearing shall be open to the public. Oral or written statements will be received from anyone wishing to testify thereat, which statement will be incorporated into the records of the hearing.

C. ***Further information.*** For further information, please contact CDA at the above telephone numbers or visit its offices at Wakin's Building, Gualo Rai, Saipan.

/s/ Manuel A. Sablan
Executive Director

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Vanuatu deputy ousts premier in confidence vote

PORT VILA, Vanuatu (AP)—Vanuatu's Prime Minister Edward Natapei has been ousted from power by his deputy in a no-confidence vote in the nation's Parliament, forcing him to return home from climate change talks in Cancun after he lost his mandate.

Natapei was replaced late Thursday by deputy premier Sato Kilman, a former foreign minister, officials said.

It was the seventh no-confidence motion Natapei had faced in less than two years—part of the volatile politics of the South Pacific nation.

New Zealand high commissioner in the capital, Port Vila, Jeff Langley said one group within the ruling coalition had joined the opposition to unseat Natapei.

"The (defector) group has picked up more Cabinet posts (in the new government) and has greater influence than previously," he told The Associated Press. "It's the way Vanuatu politics works."

Details of the vote have yet to be released after media were barred from the country's Parliament while it voted on the no-confidence motion. Political reporters said security officers turned them away from the grounds, and that they acted on instructions from Speaker George Wells.

Langley said it was the first time the public and media had been denied access to the country's Parliament since it gained independence from colonial powers Britain and France in 1980. Shortly before the ouster, former premier Natapei had tried to suspend five lawmakers trying to promote a no-confidence motion against him.

Natapei has been in office since the 2008 election, though he was briefly unseated last year when the Speaker of Parliament ruled his seat vacant for failing to register his absence. The country's Supreme Court overruled the speaker's decision.

He earlier served as prime minister after winning the 2002 election.

Okinawa election result to test US-Japan relations

By MARI YAMAGUCHI
ASSOCIATED PRESS

TOKYO (AP)—Okinawa's governor vowed Monday to honor voters' wishes after being re-elected while campaigning for the removal of an unpopular U.S. Marine base from the island, an issue that has strained relations between Japan and the United States.

Hirokazu Nakaima's return to office Sunday will likely make it difficult for Tokyo to quickly move forward a planned relocation of the Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, despite the central government's agreement with Washington. But with a more moderate stance than his challenger, there may still be a sliver of hope that a compromise can be worked out, officials said.

Nakaima pledged Monday to "ensure the Okinawan people's wishes."

Okinawa, home to about half of about 50,000 U.S. troops stationed in Japan, is a strategically important island close to Taiwan and the Chinese mainland and not far from the Korean peninsula.

Prime Minister Naoto Kan has said the U.S. military presence in Okinawa is a crucial deterrent for regional security threats, an argument driven home by North Korea's artillery strikes on a South Korean island, as well as worries over China's growing military power.

The base has been on Okinawa since 1945, and residents have long complained about it and dozens of other American military facilities on the island that produce aircraft noise and crime. A 2006 deal between the U.S. and Japan to move the base to a less crowded part of Okinawa has stalled because of public opposition. The controversy even toppled a prime minister, Yukio Hatoyama, earlier this year.

Defense Minister Toshimi Kitazawa told reporters Monday it was a difficult situation, but there was hope it can be resolved. Subsidies from the central government may be used as compensation for Okinawa's burden, Kitazawa said.

"There is room for us to negotiate (a compromise)," he said.

The 71-year-old Nakaima beat challenger Yoichi Iha, 58, by less than 40,000 votes in a tight campaign in which the base relocation was a key issue. Nakaima once backed the relocation plan but now opposes it and wants to move the base off Okinawa. Iha wants the facility moved out of Japan entirely.

Nakaima's victory could hamper Kan's efforts to press ahead with the 2006 agreement because the construction of a new Futenma site needs the governor's approval. In an editorial Monday, the Yomiuri newspaper said Nakaima's previous support for the base meant there was still a chance for a breakthrough, but "we cannot expect a quick development."

A half-century security alliance allows the U.S. to station military forces in Japan, while guaranteeing the U.S. will defend Japan from any attack. But local opposition to the troops' presence is vocal.

Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Tetsuro Fukuyama said Sunday's election result was "an expression of the will of the Okinawan citizens," but the central government will press ahead with the plan to relocate the base elsewhere on the island.

The relocation of Futenma is part of a bigger plan to move more than 8,000 U.S. Marines off Okinawa to the U.S. Pacific island of Guam, on condition a replacement facility is built in another part of Okinawa.



GUAM VISIT USCG

The Coast Guard District 14 commander, Rear Adm. Charles Ray, center, poses with the Coast Guard cutter Assateague crew and commanding officer Lt Lisa Rodman, third from center, during Ray's recent visit to all Coast Guard units in Guam on Nov. 9. Ray assumed command of the 14th Coast Guard District on Oct. 22, 2010.

BENAVENTE

From Page 1

tried to get the speaker position before the inauguration of the 17th Legislature but I did not succeed; this time, when at least two independents who used to be in the majority are supporting me, there is a possibility of a change in leadership," Benavente told *Saipan Tribune.*

But other House members said there may be one or two Republicans who may decide to align themselves with the Covenant Party, and this would either equally split the votes or still tip the scale in favor of the current majority.

Benavente, who served as speaker for three terms during the 9th, 10th and 11th Legislatures, said the current House leadership's lack of working relationship with the Senate leadership has been a stumbling block to the passage of legislation that will help the economy and the people.

"There are just too many challenges we're encountering and I am frustrated with the lack of effort in resolving these issues. People have been suffering from the economic hardships, the payless paydays, the reduction in salaries, the reduction in public services. What it takes is a greater cooperation between the two houses and it is what's lacking right now because of infighting between the leaderships," he said.

Benavente has served 17 years as a lawmaker, including the current Legislature. His stint as a lawmaker started in the 8th Legislature. Besides serving as speaker and minority leader, he also served as vice speaker.

A former lieutenant governor, Benavente said if the House and Senate leaderships are unified, they could better work with the Fitial administration.

"We would have better opportunity to sit down and discuss issues with the administration. Absent a unified Legislature, the governor has the ability to not to listen to one house but if both houses are united, the better chance for all to talk about issues. It doesn't necessarily mean the Legislature will always have its way but at least we will have a chance to convince each other or discuss with each other in finding ways to solve problems," he said.

Speaker Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) said he will be stepping down anyway so there will be no need to reorganize.

Tenorio said the majority is now the minority, referring to Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan) and Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota) who is now siding with the minority.

Torres said he will call for reorganization on Tuesday, and he said this will pave the way for the speaker to step down even before he's voted out.

Benavente pointed out yesterday that there's no absolute guarantee he will have at least 11 votes, although he wanted to bank on nine Republicans and two independents.

"I am also worried about what the governor would do, whether he would put pressure on some members," he said.

Tenorio said the former majority which includes him only has at least nine members – seven Covenant Party members and two independents.

Rep. Frederick Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), when asked for comment whether he will support Benavente or Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan) for the speaker's post, said "it depends on many things."

"As it stands, my duty is to the people of the CNMI and not to any side for the purpose of leadership. This responsibility won't end. I'm just doing my work and trying not to get caught up (in the) politics of the job," he said.

CEMETERY

From Page 1

The six jurors found 30-year-old Kurt B. King not guilty on one count of kidnapping and one count of rape.

Ramon K. Quichocho, counsel for King, told *Saipan Tribune* that the case should never have been filed or should have been voluntarily dismissed by the prosecution, "because this is the first and only modern case that I know of where the jury went on to deliberate without any tangible evidence to look at."

"On behalf of Mr. King, his family, and the defense team, we thank God, the jury, the Court, and the people of Tinian for a fair and just verdict," he said.

Quichocho praised assistant attorneys general Brian Gallagher and Russell Lorfing, who prosecuted the case, saying the two did a great lawyering job despite the government's total lack of credible evidence.

"They sure kept me extra busy with their motions and objections throughout the trial," he said.

Saipan Tribune contacted Gallagher for comments but he had not responded by press time yesterday.

King's co-defendant, Joseph Ray Arriola Jr., 21, entered a guilty plea last week. He has not been sentenced yet.

Quichocho called two eyewitnesses to the stand during the trial.

The victim alleged that she and her friends had been drinking at a club in December 2009 when King grabbed her and, together with Arriola, brought her to the cemetery where they raped her.

King's is the third rape case the Office of the Attorney General prosecuted in a month that ended in quick acquittal during jury trial.

On Nov. 3, Saipan Superior Court jurors deliberated for less than an hour to reach a not guilty verdict against Paul H. Taitano on charges that he had raped his former common-law wife.

On Nov. 17, after less than 15 minutes of deliberation, a Saipan Superior Court jury reached a not guilty verdict against Michael Blodak who was charged with repeatedly raped a woman. It was reportedly the fastest jury deliberation in CNMI history.

DOCTORS

From Page 1

monwealth Health Center, he said.

In the meantime, CHC doctors are helping the center out by supervising its midlevel providers, nurse practitioners, and physician assistant in carrying out treatment for patients.

"Our doctors at CHC are supervising them and the doctors literally need to go down every two weeks to review the charts and countersign some of the documents because it's part of the Medicare requirements," explained Villagomez.

Although this setup is not ideal, "for now it's the best we can do to ensure the welfare of the patients," he added.

As an emergency protocol, patients requiring consultation or further treatment are sent to the Saipan hospital. For major illnesses or conditions, patients are flown at once to CHC once they are stabilized.

The center has 15 nurses. It accommodates about 50 patients daily during regular working hours.

On Rota, the island's health center has not seen any major concern in terms of providing treatment to patients, said Villagomez.

Rota has two physicians, which Villagomez described as "quite sustainable for the past 10 to 15 years."

"That works well for them. On other issues like nursing services and medical supplies, they communicate with DPH for assistance," he added.

A number of nurses on Rota recently stopped reporting for work due to unpaid salaries and other benefits. This was immediately addressed by both the Rota Mayor's Office and the Rota Legislative Delegation so as not to hamper the delivery of health care services to the island.

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- ☑ **Gold Broken Chains** ..... up to $1,000
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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XX, Issue No. 289

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

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EDITORIAL

N. Korea goes rogue

The game has become all too familiar.

North Korea commits a provocative act, talks ensue, the North makes a series of promises in exchange for aid. Aid deliveries commence, the North fails to comply fully.

Last week Pyongyang drastically upped the ante by shelling a village on a South Korean island, killing two civilians and two South Korean marines, wounding 20 and leaving much of the village smoldering.

It was an outrageous move, even for the North Koreans. This time the pattern of the past should be broken: Pyongyang should not be rewarded with another agreement to supply fuel oil or build nuclear power plants or any other sort of aid.

Over the years the North has made and broken pacts almost with nonchalance. In 2005, for example, it promised to abandon all "nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programs."

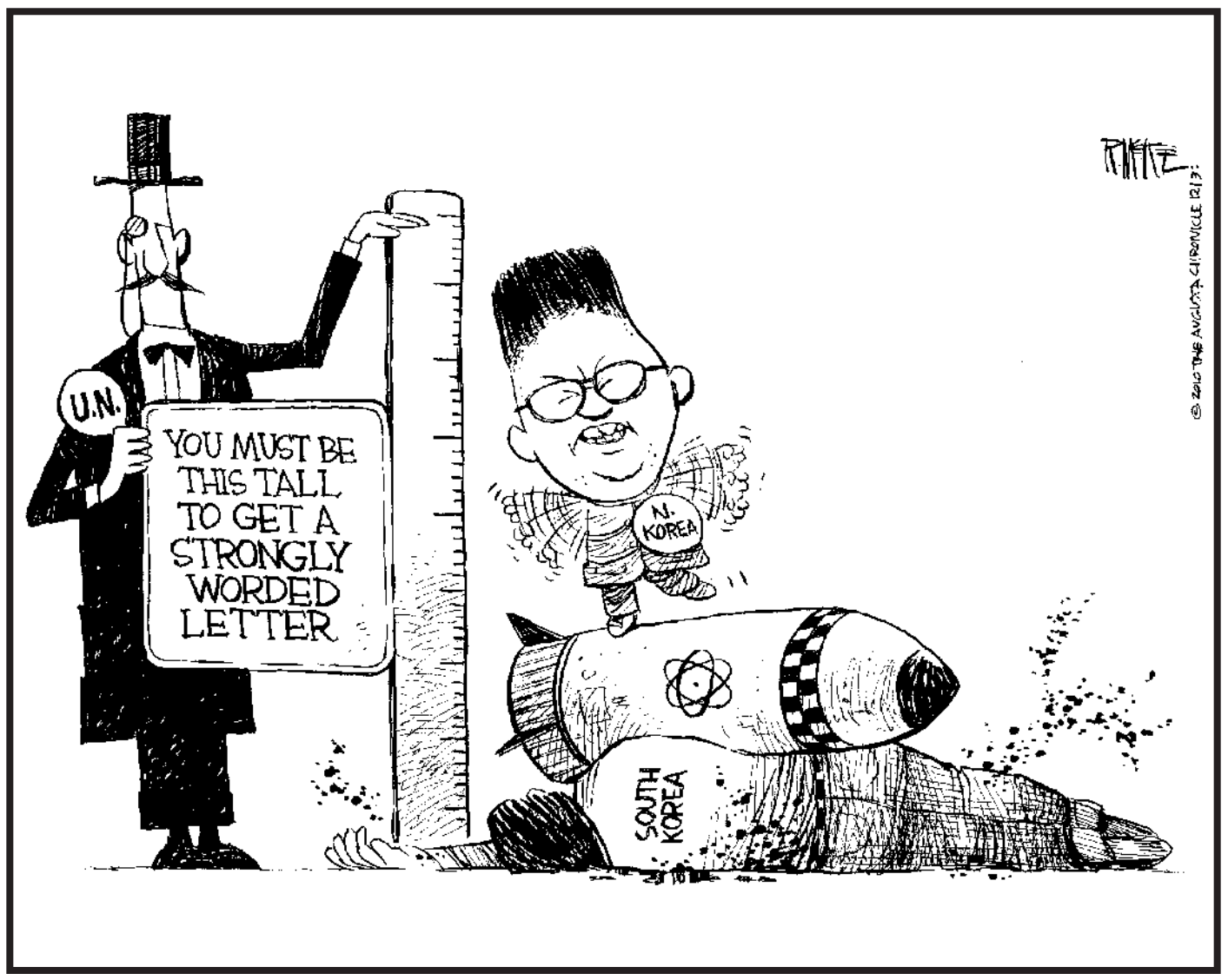
A few weeks ago, Pyongyang invited experts to come have a look at a uranium-enrichment facility and nuclear reactor it was not supposed to have built.

Washington has accelerated naval maneuvers with South Korean vessels in the Yellow Sea, despite complaints from China. And the United States has moved to crimp Pyongyang's access to the international financial system—an important step. Similar moves by the Bush administration were effective in getting Pyongyang's attention.

Unfortunately, the Bush White House later relented and eased the pressure, and in late 2008 Washington even took North Korea off the State Department's list of states that sponsor terrorism. Given the North's activities in proliferation of nuclear and missile technology, Pyongyang should be relisted.

The real key to this tangle is China, which remains the North's main source of aid and energy. The Obama administration should make it clear to China that being a great power and enjoying access to the global trading system entails obligations, and one of them is curbing the destabilizing impulses of reckless client states like North Korea.

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WikiLeaks doesn't tell all



By DOYLE MCMANUS
Los Angeles Times

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The headlines from the WikiLeaks dump of thousands of not-very-classified State Department cables have focused, understandably, on the embarrassment factor: It's not good for American diplomacy when foreign leaders see what they thought were confidential conversations reprinted on websites and in newspapers.

But the substance is another thing. Take Iran. What do the cables tell us? That the United States has been telling the truth about what it wants from Iran; that the Obama administration desperately wants to find a solution that doesn't include military action; and that a formidable alliance of other countries, not only Israel but most of Europe and Iran's Arab neighbors as well, shares the U.S. concerns.

The WikiLeaks cables report that Saudi Arabia's King Abdullah has implored President Obama to "cut off the head of the snake"—embarrassing for the king, perhaps, but no surprise to any of his subjects who have been paying attention. The cables also report the wry reaction of Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates, who insists that military action against Iran is a bad idea: The Saudis, he said, want to "fight the Iranians to the last American."

There is a limit, though, to how much a random assortment of cables can show. From reading every document released about Iran so far, you might miss the most important fact: The Obama administration's long campaign to increase pressure on Iran is actually showing signs of progress.

International economic sanctions are finally beginning to bite. Major European oil companies, including BP and Shell, have finally stopped supplying Iran with the refined fuel products it desperately needs. European banks and other businesses are reducing their profiles in Tehran.

And the measures are stoking dissension in Iran's government. "We have never had such intensified sanctions," Iran's former speaker of parliament, Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, complained in September, criticizing President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad for responding haphazardly to the challenge. One religious leader publicly questioned whether Ahmedinejad's government is telling the truth about the inflation rate—officially about 9%, but said by many Iranians to feel much higher.

Iran's economy is vulnerable. The country's most important source of income—oil production—has fallen sharply, partly because Iran can no longer attract new investment, technology and expertise from most countries.

If Ahmadinejad follows through on his plan to remove most of the subsidies that have kept essentials such as electricity, water, gasoline and bread artificially cheap (gasoline is still only 38 cents a gallon), Iranians will feel even more pinched.

Meanwhile, someone has been sabotaging Iran's nuclear research program. Ahmadinejad acknowledged this week that a foreign software attack "made problems" at the main facility that is enriching uranium and making it potentially useful for the nuclear weapons Iran says it doesn't want. Assassins on motorcycles killed one prominent nuclear scientist on Monday and wounded another by slapping magnetic bombs onto their cars in Tehran. No government claimed responsibility, but Israeli newspapers reported that their country's intelligence agency? has used that technique in the past.

Under all that pressure, Iran announced this week that it would resume nuclear negotiations with the major Western powers in Geneva starting next week.

The United States and its allies want to revive a proposal to move most of Iran's enriched uranium out of the country in exchange for safe nuclear fuel for medical use; Iran agreed to the idea last year but then backed away. Iran wants to expand the talks beyond nuclear issues; the Western powers are willing to agree as long as progress is being made on the nuclear front.

What's going on here is a high-stakes campaign to buy time—to slow Iran's nuclear clock. Obama administration officials doubt that the Iranian regime is susceptible to a sudden change of heart on the desirability of nuclear weapons, but they do think that it can be induced to slow down, and that, in this game, any delay should count as a success. In the best-case scenario, the longer Iran's nuclear work can be delayed, the greater the chance that a new government could assume power and decide on a change of course. The risk, of course, is that at some point Israel will decide that its survival requires a military strike.

The good news is that U.S. officials say there is still time for more diplomatic inroads. The Iranians aren't able yet to produce large amounts of weapons-grade uranium.

The Obama administration deserves credit for getting as far as it has. Critics dismissed Obama's offer of engagement with Iran as naive and his reliance on economic sanctions as ineffective. But the sanctions have had bite, and it was engagement that made the sanctions possible. The problem of Iran hasn't yet been solved, but the administration has made progress, the kind of progress that a collection of leaked cables can't always convey.

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Disclosure without a cause

By TRUDY RUBIN
The Philadelphia Inquirer

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All the hoopla about whether WikiLeaks has harmed U.S. foreign policy has missed the most stunning lesson of this drama.

We now know that, in the age of the Internet, two obscure individuals can upend U.S. diplomacy and command global headlines. A bored U.S. Army private and an obsessive Australian oddball have set the world on edge.

Although I am a journalist, and journalists are supposed to love leaks, I do not think this is a good thing. Consider: If two hackers can cause such a global stir by dumping tens of thousands of secret diplomatic cables onto the Web, what comes next?

We already know that hackers are trying to discover military and industrial secrets, and experts warn about cyber wars in the future. WikiLeaks has shown us what lies ahead.

Julian Assange, the Australian founder of WikiLeaks, has gleefully announced that his next "megaleak" will target Bank of America, revealing a trove he obtained from an executive's hard drive. No matter what you think of big banks' recent behavior, this leak won't be good for a fragile global economy or a public reeling from recession.

Indeed, Assange's technique is more likely to do harm than to enlighten. If you plow through some of his writings, you find the garbled, self-righteous prose of an anarchist with a deep distrust of all governments and institutions. He seems to believe he can disrupt the U.S. government, and presumably other governments as well, by publishing masses of secret information.

Assange sees deep government conspiracies everywhere, but believes, with twisted logic, that the U.S. system is easy to disrupt because it is so open. His goal is to make it harder for the system as a whole to function—not to right a specific wrong.

That's why this dump of secret documents has nothing in common with the Pentagon Papers, despite Daniel Ellsberg's mistaken praise of WikiLeaks. Ellsberg's act aimed to reveal government dissembling in the launch of the Vietnam War, as laid out in particular documents.

These recent leaks reveal no plots or scandals. Even the leftish British newspaper the Guardian, one of the first to receive documents from Assange, admitted to its readers: "The cables are unlikely to gratify conspiracy theorists. They do not contain evidence of assassination plots, CIA bribery, or such criminal enterprises as the Iran-Contra scandal in the Reagan years. ..."

Instead, by dumping large amounts of unfiltered data without concern for the contents, Assange has endangered lives. The documents expose U.S. informants who could be arrested. Human-rights organizations fear the leaks will endanger activists and journalists whose names are in U.S. cables. Newspapers that received the leaks have carefully redacted any such names, but as Assange puts secret cables online, he may not be so discreet.

And although journalists have extracted some good stories from the material—on Pakistan, Iran, China, and North Korea—there is little that has not been written about before.

Yes, we may now have some quotes from foreign leaders that tell us what we already knew—that the Saudis distrust Iran, or that we can't rely on Pakistan to go after key Taliban groups. Yes, we now know some titillating bits, including the fact that Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi has a "voluptuous" blond Ukrainian nurse. Who's surprised?

But rather than expose specific wrongs, Assange seems intent on messing up entire systems. If U.S. diplomats have to resort to more secrecy, if foreign leaders are more reluctant to talk openly to our leaders, if hard-won trust between the United States and the leaders of Russia, China, and Arab countries is downgraded, all to the good.

Fortunately, Assange won't succeed—this time. The leaks will embarrass U.S. diplomats and make their jobs harder, and may undercut some foreign leaders who were quoted. I agree, however, with Secretary of Defense Bob Gates, who said: "Governments deal with the United States because it's in their interest, not because they like us, not because they trust us, and not because they believe we can keep secrets."

Yet next time we may not get off so easy—even if U.S. officials correct a bizarre situation in which three million military and civilian officials had potential access to the "secure" system from which Pfc. Bradley Manning lifted the cables.

The WikiLeaks dump is a preview of coming attractions. The next installment could be more dangerous and disruptive. Forewarned should be forearmed.

A gloomy 'new normal' has the world in its grip

By LEWIS W. DIUGUID
The Kansas City Star

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My first trip abroad exposed me to people and things that felt uncomfortably like home.

On the cruise ship, a woman serving as a restaurant hostess explained that she was a young mother of a preteen son, but she had an engineering degree. The cruise ship job away from her Asian nation home was the lifeboat in the bad economy, enabling her to stay afloat.

A young tour guide in Italy was in similar straits. She had several college degrees. But leading tours paid the bills. Scratching to get by is not just an American problem. These women, like a lot of young adults in our global economic horror, have had to settle for less just to get by.

On the streets of Mediterranean port cities in Spain, France and Italy were hustlers mingling among tourists, students, wealthy shoppers and other passers-by. They were either begging for loose euros or trying to sell such items as umbrellas, purses, watches, jewelry and luggage.

This situation was not unlike men and women in Kansas City who stand at intersections and alongside highway ramps with signs begging for jobs or handouts. Just like home, many of the people in Europe were black, except these hustlers were African immigrants.

When police officers rounded a corner and strolled toward them, they scattered—just like home. In this economy, many people do the unthinkable to survive.

Back on the cruise ship, a baby boomer who had been in real estate sold her company in Pennsylvania and moved to Florida, where she became a renter. The market is not right to buy, she said. The house-flipping days of quick purchases for quick profit are over. The new/old normal mandates that people stay in their homes at least five years before thinking of selling, she said.

Over lunch in Rome, a company executive from the upper Midwest said the service station business he's in has seen a dramatic revenue drop. People are staying home because they're unemployed or they're traveling less as they ride out the rough economic seas.

But that doesn't help his businesses or the people he employs. Everyone is stressed, praying they'll hold out until better times arrive.

President Barack Obama, with help from the House and Senate, has tried to force an end to the hard times. When George W. Bush was president, Congress passed the $700 billion Troubled Asset Relief Program, or TARP, to keep the sinking banking and financial industry afloat.

In 2009 Obama won Congressional approval for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which is pumping more than $800 billion into the economy. Corporations like General Motors and Chrysler got government lifelines. So have construction workers, school teachers, police officers and firefighters, who've stayed employed because of federal help.

A man on a flight back to the states said the money was a godsend, creating jobs in his industry, which had gone into the doldrums. Despite what conservative pundits have shouted, the government money has kept the economy from completely falling apart.

But the bad news is a lot of the money has been committed. Projects are being completed. However, it's far from enough to jumpstart the economy. Joblessness, poor sales and low consumer confidence stubbornly remain as global riptides threatening the important holiday shopping season and our economic recovery.

At the Atlanta airport on the last flight home, constant worry drained the color from a woman's face. She had lost a good job in a RIF, or reduction in force.

She was out of work for about six months before picking up another position. But the workload is crushing, with long hours and a lot of travel.

She worries whether she'll weather the strain and the competition from hungry, ladder-climbing co-workers. A 59-year-old woman then added that in three years she'll start to collect Social Security.

She said she knows that if she waits for full Social Security benefits at age 66, the government will likely move the age requirement into the 70s to save the system from the coming 78 million baby boom hoard.

The new normal is global worry, and there is no secure or comfortable safe harbor for anyone from the economic storm, which is upon us.

Letter to the Editor

Unity March redux

The very first CNMI Unity March, described as "a historic and peaceful demonstration," was held on Dec. 7, 2007. It started at 4:30pm from Kilili Beach, moving down Beach Road leading to the American Memorial Park. That historic march was the product of actions of personalities such as then-representative Tina Sablan, Ed Propst, Dekada Movement counsel Stephen Woodruff, Dekada Movement Inc. president Bonifacio Sagana, Human Dignity Movement president Jerry Custodio, activist Malou Berueco, and officers and members of the Pilipino Contract Workers Association Inc., the Multi-Sectoral Overseas Movement, and the Local 5.

Two days before the unity march, I invited the "silent majority" in the foreign workers community to stand up and join the march in a letter to the editor titled "It's Time to Make a Stand." Human rights advocate Wendy Doromal flew all the way from Florida to Saipan to join the unity march. Custodio was the first to tell the local papers that Ms. Doromal was on her way to Saipan.

The reason for that march was to bring the entire community together—all nationalities, cultural backgrounds, religions, and occupations—to protest the new local labor law that was passed (Public Law 15-108), to express support for the extension of federal immigration laws to the CNMI, and to call on the U.S. Congress to retain the provision that would grant improved status to long-term alien residents in the CNMI.

Improved status for long-term alien residents was expected to help create a freer labor market, encourage rising wages and better working conditions, provide a more stable and reliable pool of qualified resident workers for businesses, reduce workers' vulnerability to labor abuses and exploitation, and keep families together. These were the expectations and the goals of the majority of unity marchers three years ago. "Improved status for long-term alien residents, combined with a sound and fairly-enforced federal immigration program tailored to local needs, would do much to stabilize the local economy and put the CNMI on a path to genuine recovery." Those were the very words of the lady representative who supported the unity march.

Three years later, our callings remain a calling. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has made great strides since taking over immigration on Nov. 28, 2009, but it has also faced many difficulties. At this date, no DHS regulation has been implemented for foreign workers and foreign investors.

On May 7, 2010, a GAO report, *DHS Should Conclude Negotiations and Finalize Regulations to Implement Federal Immigration Law*, chronicled the difficulties encountered by DHS to fully implement federal immigration in the CNMI. The GAO found that DHS faces operational challenges as well as challenges negotiating with the CNMI government.

Some says majority of these developments are because of foreign workers' actions and struggle to seek improved status. Some say those who participated in the struggle for improved status for foreign workers were just dreaming in broad daylight or had no right to do so. To those who said so, Mother Teresa had this to say: "Little things are indeed little, but to be faithful in little things is a great thing. We cannot do great things on this Earth, only small things with great love. If you judge people, you have no time to love them."

Folks, once again Dec. 7 is here. The memorable Unity March once again will be remembered by the thousands who joined the long walk from Kilili Beach to American Memorial Park. Let us not forget that our struggle for improvef status is not over yet. The island still need foreign workers, and foreign workers needs job too. President Obama said, "Why punish people who are just trying to earn a living? Mass deportation would disrupt our economy."

Carlito J. Marquez
Puerto Rico, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

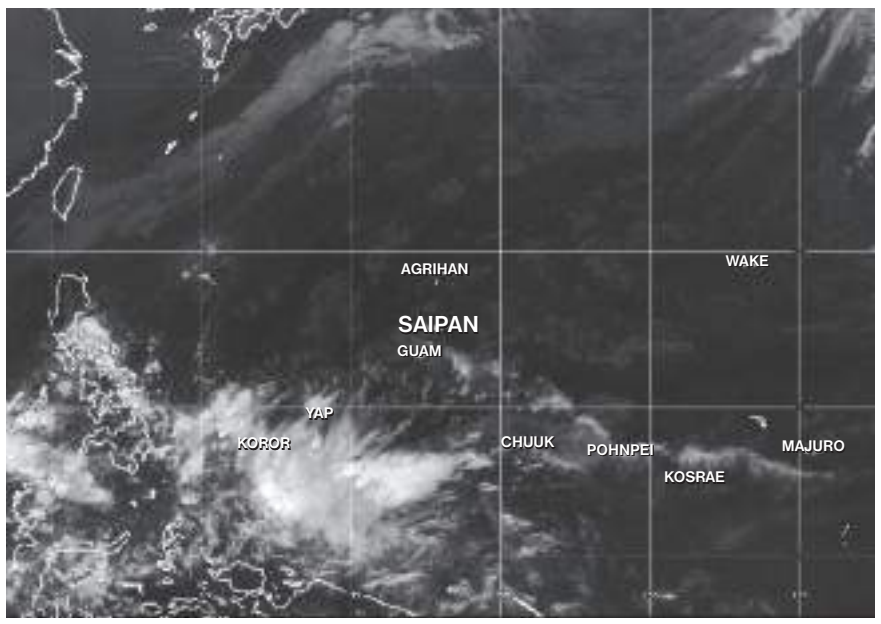
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲88	▼80
Palau	Rain	▲86	▼78
Yap	Showers	▲89	▼78
Chuuk	Showers	▲83	▼77
Pohnpei	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼74
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲89	▼76
Majuro	Mostly Sunny	▲86	▼76

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲70	▼59
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲47	▼21
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲77	▼57
Honolulu	Sunny	▲82	▼70
London	Mostly Cloudy	▲41	▼32
Los Angeles	Mostly Cloudy	▲66	▼51
Manila	Thundershowers	▲89	▼76
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼60
Miami	Sunny	▲76	▼54
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲43	▼30
Osaka	Sunny	▲60	▼45
Paris	Ice	▲39	▼23
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲62	▼45
Rome	Showers	▲51	▼37
Salem	Showers	▲44	▼34
San Francisco	Showers	▲60	▼53
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲53	▼36
Tokyo	Sunny	▲61	▼45
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲46	▼34

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2010
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Convergent east winds, a surface trough running from 3N142E to 6N148E and favorable upper-level conditions are combining to produce scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms around Yap, Koror and west of Chuuk between 2N and 9N from 130E to 146E. A surface low centered east of Wake Island is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between 18N and 24N from 177E to the date line.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

12:16 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet
7:17 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
12:23 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
5:30 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:29 AM	5:45 PM
Sunday	6:29 AM	5:46 PM
Monday	6:30 AM	5:46 PM
Tuesday	6:30 AM	5:46 PM
Wednesday	6:31 AM	5:46 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	4:42 AM	4:19 PM
Sunday	5:43 AM	5:15 PM
Monday	6:43 AM	6:12 PM
Tuesday	7:39 AM	7:09 PM
Wednesday	8:31 AM	8:05 PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 17, 2010

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM

CO9317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
CO9313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
CO9601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
CO9603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
CO9605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:10am	8:45am	Daily
DL285	6:40am	9:15am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ606	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ604/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
CO9317/891	2:45am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM
DL285/173	6:40am	10:15pm	Daily via NRT
CO9313/933	7:55am	9:40pm	6 via GUM
CO9313/893	7:55am	11:00pm	3 via GUM-Palau
CO9603/933	3:05pm	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM
CO9603/893	3:05pm	11:00pm	5 via GUM-Palau
CO9605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ606/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN
CO9599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:10am	12:00am	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:40am	12:00am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
CO9603/909	3:05pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ606/723	3:20pm	10:35pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM-SAIPAN

CO9316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
CO9596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
CO9600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
CO9602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL286	3:50pm	8:25pm	Daily
DL288	8:00pm	12:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:10pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ603	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/605	12:10am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
DL172/286	7:55am	8:25pm	Daily via NRT
CO890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
CO892/9596	10:25pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM-Palau
CO892/9596	10:25pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM-Palau
PR110/CO596	10:00pm	7:25am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
CO934/9596	11:10pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM
CO934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 5, 7 via GUM
CO934/9596	11:59pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM
CO934/9596	11:59pm	7:50am+1	4 via GUM

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0910/9596	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

SCHEDULE OF RELIGIOUS SERVICES

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am Chamorro, 9am English, 11am Filipino and 6pm English
Monday-Saturday: 6am Chamorro
Wednesday: 6pm Chamorro
Parish office hours:
Monday-Saturday
8am-12pm, 12-1pm, 1-5pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm (PH Novena 5:45pm)
Friday: 5:30pm praying of Divine Mercy Chaplet; 6pm devotional mass in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.
Saturday: 6am and 6pm (anticipated)
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am 6pm Tagalog mass
Parish office hours: (Fr. Celso G. Magbanua) Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 8-11:30am/ 3-5:30pm, Wednesday and Friday 3-5pm.
Telephone no. 285-0273

Santa Soledad Mission Parish
Monday: 6pm
Tuesday: 6pm
Wednesday: 6pm
Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 6pm (Youth mass/ anticipated Sunday mass)
Sunday: 7am and 9am (Children's mass)
Parish office hours: Wednesday and Friday: 8-10am,
Saturday: 4-6pm
Telephone no. 256-4568

Saint Jude Parish
Monday- Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 7am
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Parish office hours: Monday-Friday 9:30-11:30am, 3:30-5pm
Office is close every Thursday and Saturday
Telephone no. 288-0007

San Antonio Parish
Monday-Friday 6pm
Saturday: 6pm
Sunday: 7am, 9am (Blessing of children)
Parish office hours: Tuesday-Saturday: 8-11:30am, 2-4:45pm
Close on Sunday and Monday

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am Chamorro, 8am English
Monday and Tuesday:6am Chamorro
Wednesday:6pm English
Thursday: 6am Chamorro
Friday: 6am English
Saturday: 6am Chamorro, 6pm Tagalog
Sunday: anticipated mass

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am, 8am, 10am
Monday-Friday: 7pm
Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Monday- Saturday: 6am daily mass
Monday- Sunday: 3pm Divine Mercy Chaplet
Wednesday: 6pm, mass, exposition of the blessed sacrament
Saturday: 6pm, anticipated Sunday mass
Sunday: 7:30-9am English, 6pm Tagalog mass
Office hours: Monday-Wednesday: 9am-12pm, 2-5pm
Thursday: day off
Friday- Saturday: 8am-12pm, 2-5pm
Telephone no. 234-6991

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 7:30am Chamorro, 9am English
Monday: 6pm English
Tuesday: 6pm English
Wednesday: 6pm English- novena mass to our Lady of San Roque oil
Thursday: 6pm English
Friday: 6pm English- Devotion to the sacred heart of Jesus (First Fridays)
Saturday: 6am English- Our Lady's Saturday mass for the intentions of the Men and Women in military service, 6pm English- anticipated mass
Parish office hours: daily except Thursday and Sundays: 4:30-6pm
Telephone no. 322-2404, Fr. Bong's cell: 285-912, Diocesan Finance office: 234-3000 ext.143

San Vicente Parish
Monday-Friday: 6pm,
Saturday: 6pm (First Saturday of every month)
Sunday: 6am anticipated mass, 6pm (Neo Catechumenal community mass), 8pm
Sunday: 6am, 9am, 6pm
Parish office hours: daily 9-11am
Telephone no. 235-8208 or 287-0131

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 8am
Monday: 6pm (1st Mondays cemetery masses at 5:30pm)
Tuesday- Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 6pm-anticipated Sunday mass 8-10pm
Parish office hours: Monday- Friday: 8:30am-12pm

PROTESTANT

Born Again Christian
(Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm
Telephone no. 234-6026/27

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services:
Sunday: Chinese and Filipino 9am, English 6pm
Bible Study: Wednesday and Saturday 8pm
Telephone no. 235-8540

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Morning Service, Sunday, 10:00 am
Evening Service, Sunday, 6:00 pm
Children Sunday School, 10:00am/ 6:00 pm
Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, 7-9 pm
Youth Night of Worship, Friday, 6:30 pm
As Perdido Road
Chalan Piao, Saipan MP 96950
Tel. No. (670) 235-8590
Email: cornerstone@cfemcares.org

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau,
Call 235-0545 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 9-11am
Sunday school/ Children's church 9am (nursery available during Sunday service)
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: 6am Tuesday GCA Kagman, Wednesday Navy Hill, Thursday San Antonio
Home Cell Bible Study: 7pm (Through out the week)
Telephone no. 322-5680

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (English)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (Tagalog)
Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church
Chalan Kanoa Drive, Chalan Kanoa
(east of Town Center and Beach Road, Near Mt. Carmel Cathedral)
Worship Service: 9:00am
Children's Sunday School: 9:00am
Choir Practice: 8:00am
Singspiration: 8:30am
Prayer, Care & Share: Wednesday 7:00pm
Pastor: Millie Carroll 322-6158

Immanuel Methodist Church
(Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)
(Korean Congregation)
Sunday worship: 9am, 10:30, 1pm
Wednesday evening service: 8pm
Daily morning prayer: 5am

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
Sunday English Service: 7:30-9am,
Sunday Tagalog Service: 9-11am and 6-8pm,
Wednesday: 7:30-9pm

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9:20am
Sunday Adult: 11am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided)
Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1
for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620

Marianas Bible Fellowship Center
Sunday School: 9-9:30am
Divine Worship: 9:30-11am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ (4th Watch)
Sunday worship 8:30am
Sunday evening 7:00pm
Prayer meeting, every Wednesday 7:30pm
San Jose village, after San Jose Hotel
Telephone: 789-7566

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 10-11am
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 6-7pm
Thursday Bible Study: 7pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church Koblerville
Sunday services:
Sunday school 9:00am
Morning worship 10:00am
Evening service 6:00pm
Wednesday evening bible study 7:00pm

Chinese services
Sunday morning 10:00am
Sunday evening 7:00pm

Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church.
Telephone No: 285-4664/2

Thy Word Ministries Saipan
Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi

Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries
Sunday 5:30am-6:30am
Morning prayer
7am-9am English service
7am-9am Sunday school
10am-12noon English service, Koblerville
Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting
Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service
Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian
Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Formerly God's Victorious Army)
Sunday 8:30am to 10:30am - Worship Service
Monday 7:00 pm - Women's Fellowship
Tuesday nights - Home cellgroup
Wednesday - 7:30pm to 9:00pm Mid Week Service
Friday 7:30pm to 9:00pm Prayer Meeting
Saturday nights - Praise and worship practice
Last Friday of the month - Overnight praying meeting
Pastor Brendon Perez - Tel# 2359246

Editor's Note: Information subject to change without prior notice. All information provided by the respective churches. If you want your church or religious activities included or to report changes and errors, call *Saipan Tribune* at 235-6397 or 235-2440 or email editor@saipantribune.com.

Business

Heading off tax increases: Compromise taking shape

WASHINGTON (AP)—A critical compromise to head off a year-end tax increase for millions of Americans took shape fitfully Thursday in private talks between the White House and congressional Republicans punctuated by outbursts of partisanship.

An extension of unemployment benefits for the long-term unemployed appeared likely to become part of any deal. Additionally, Democrats sought to expand the package with a tax break providing as much as $400 for individual working people and $800 for couples—even if they pay nothing to the IRS.

Two days after he and newly empowered Republicans exchanged pledges of cooperation at the White House, President Barack Obama expressed optimism about the prospects for agreement in time for enactment by year's end.

Still, he cautioned, "That doesn't mean there might not be some posturing over the next several days."

Not long after Obama spoke, Democrats ignited a partisan row in the House with legislation that would prevent taxes from rising on lower- and middle-income wage earners but allow them to go up for people at higher incomes.

Given Republican objections, that measure has no chance of passing the Senate. But Democrats there insisted on voting on it as a way to dramatize their support for the measure and, officials said, register unhappiness with Obama.

The president has already signaled he will accede to Republican demands for extending tax cuts at all income levels, making votes on the Democratic-backed bill purely symbolic and angering some of the rank-and-file in his party.

But Obama was juggling a pair of top-priority items—winning enough support from reluctant Republicans to ratify a new arms control treaty with Russia was the second—and his leverage was reduced in tax negotiations as a result.

The House tax cut measure drew withering criticism from Rep. John Boehner of Ohio, who will become the speaker when Republicans take power in January. "I am trying to catch my breath so I don't to refer to this ... as uh, chicken crap, all right?" he said.

"But this is nonsense, all right? The election was a month ago," he said, referring to voting that swept Democrats from power in the House and reduced their majority in the Senate.

Investigators blame A380 failure on oil fire

SYDNEY (AP)—An oil leak was the most likely cause of the mid-air disintegration of a superjumbo engine last month, investigators confirmed Friday. They said a potentially dangerous manufacturing defect may still exist in Rolls-Royce engines used by 20 of the A380s.

The Australian Transport Safety Bureau released its preliminary report into the blowout that caused a Qantas A380 to make an emergency landing Nov. 4 in what was the most significant safety issue for the world's newest and largest jetliner.

The bureau confirmed earlier suggestions that oil leaking from tubes in a super-hot part of the engine caused a fire that eventually caused a turbine disc to fly apart and send shrapnel slicing through a wing of the plane.

The ATSB said Thursday it had found a suspected manufacturing flaw in oil tubes in part of the Rolls-Royce Trent 900 engines and recommended new safety checks for A380s using those engines. The 20 superjumbos powered by Trent 900s are flown by Qantas, Singapore Airlines and Germany's Lufthansa.

Earlier warnings blamed an oil leak for a fire and subsequent chain of failures that sent heavy parts flying off the engine shortly after it took off from Singapore. The engine blowout showered debris across Indonesia's Batam island.

The Australian agency, which is leading the international investigation into the Qantas engine breakup, added some specifics, saying a section of an oil tube that connects the high-pressure and intermediate-pressure bearing structures of the engine was the danger area.

The problem could lead to "fatigue cracking, oil leakage and potential engine failure from an oil fire," the agency said.

"We are not yet at a stage where we can definitively say that the potential fatigue problem with the oil pipe that has been detected is the cause of what happened over Batam island," ATSB's Chief Commissioner Martin Dolan told reporters. "But we think it is significant enough as a safety issue in any event that it needed to be identified and safely dealt with."

Nation

House censures veteran Rep. Rangel for misconduct

WASHINGTON (AP)—Veteran Rep. Charles Rangel, the raspy-voiced, backslapping former chairman of one of Congress' most powerful committees, was censured by his House colleagues for financial misconduct Thursday in a solemn moment of humiliation in the sunset of his career.

"I brought it onto myself," Rangel told the House. But he also said politics was at work.

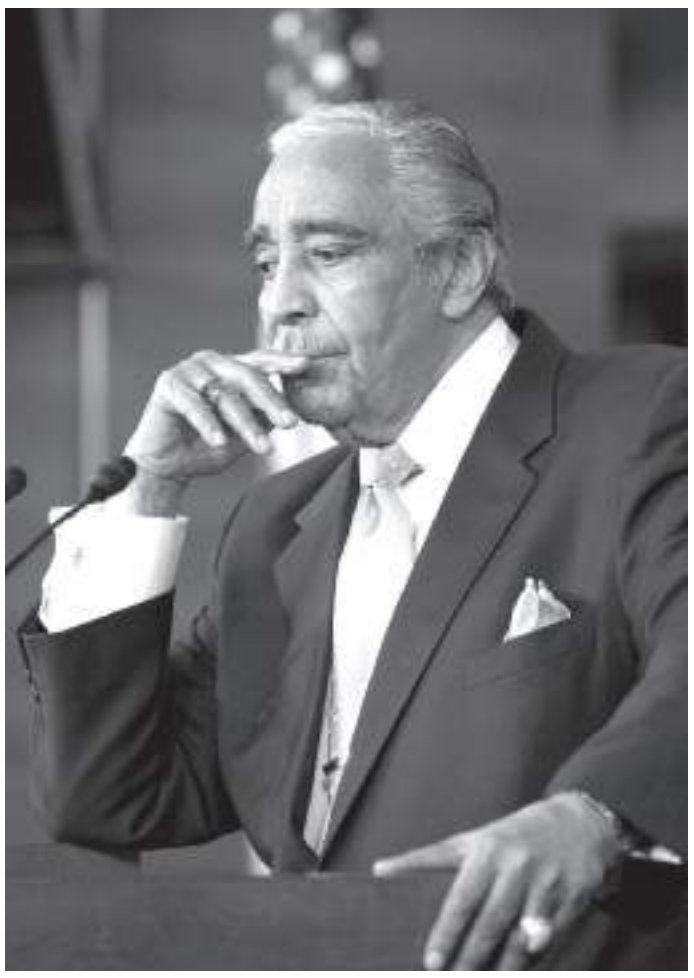
After the 333-79 vote, the 80-year-old Democrat from New York's Harlem stood silently at the front of the House and faced Speaker Nancy Pelosi as she read him the formal resolution of censure.

Then, in response, he admitted he had made mistakes, including his failure to pay all his taxes, filing misleading financial statements and improperly seeking money from corporate interests for a college center bearing his name.

But he also declared, "In my heart I truly feel good." He said, "A lot of it has to do with the fact that I know in my heart that I am not going to be judged by this Congress, but I am going to be judged by my life."

It was only the 23rd time in the nation's history that a House member received the most severe punishment short of expulsion. Aside from the embarrassment, censure carries no practical effect and ends the more than two-year ordeal for the congressman who was re-elected to a 21st term last month with more than 80 percent of the vote.

Relief and defiance took over the moment Rangel finished speaking. Somber, Pelosi quietly slipped out of the chamber, but some Democrats gave him a standing ovation. Rangel made it only a third of the way up the aisle when a phalanx of well-wishers stopped and hugged him; he responded by saying something that made them laugh. He was smiling for the rest of the 10 minutes or so that it took to get through his colleagues to exit the chamber, his humiliation past.



AP

Rep. Charles Rangel, D-N.Y., speaks to the media after he was censured by the House, on Capitol Hill in Washington Thursday, Dec. 2, 2010.

Despite the censure, he contended in his response on the House floor that it had been proven that "at no time has it ever entered my mind to enrich myself or to do violence to the honesty that's expected of all of us in this House."

"I am fully aware that this vote reflects perhaps the thinking not just of the members but the political side and the constituency of this body," he told his colleagues. Outside, he told reporters the censure vote was "very, very, very political."

Still, the matter is likely to stain Rangel's half-century in public service. The House ethics committee last month found him guilty of 11 of 13 charges of financial misdeeds, including submitting misleading financial statements and failing to pay all his taxes.

The chairman of the ethics committee, Democratic Rep. Zoe Lofgren of California, said the censure her committee recommended was consistent with a Democratic pledge to run "the most honest, most open, most ethical Congress in history."

She said Rangel "violated the public trust" while serving in influential positions including chairman of the tax-writing Ways and Means Committee.

McCain, others say military gays study is biased

WASHINGTON (AP)—A doubting John McCain led Republican opposition Thursday to letting gays serve openly in the military, sternly clashing with the Pentagon's top leaders and warning that troops would quit in droves if Congress repealed the "don't ask, don't tell" law.

In tense exchanges with Defense Secretary Robert Gates and Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, McCain and other Republicans dismissed a Pentagon study on gays as biased and said objections by combat troops were being ignored.

Gates and Mullen defended the study, but McCain blamed politics for pushing the matter forward during wartime. He predicted that Marines and soldiers assigned combat duties, in particular, would abandon their service if they had to serve along with gays open about their sexual orientation.

McCain, R-Ariz., also said the study was flawed because it asked troops what impact repeal would have, instead of whether they wanted the law repealed at all. The study found that two-thirds of troops predicted few problems, but those who did were mostly assigned to combat roles.

"We send these young people into combat," said McCain. "We think they're mature enough to fight and die. I think they're mature enough to make a judgment on who they want to serve with and the impact on their battle effectiveness."

Gates shot back that asking troops if they want to serve alongside gays would amount to issuing a referendum on a policy decision that should be made by Congress or the courts. The goal of the study, he said, was to find out it if it could be done without hurting the military's ability to fight.

"Are you going to ask them if they want 15-month tours? You going to ask them if they want to be part of the surge in Iraq? That's not the way our civilian-led military has ever worked in our entire history," Gates said.

McCain, a four-term Republican and former Navy pilot who endured a harrowing ordeal as a prisoner of war during the Vietnam War, has taken a higher profile on socially divisive issues since losing the 2008 presidential race to Barack Obama. He has even differed with his wife, Cindy, who in a recent online video opposed the military policy and accused the government of treating gays like "second-class citizens."

Frowning and lecturing Gates and other top officials who tried to defend the Obama administration's effort to repeal the gay ban, McCain scoffed at their contention that the concerns of combat troops could be addressed through time and training.

His opposition foreshadows this month's Senate debate on a bill to overturn the 1993 "don't ask, don't tell" law banning gays from serving openly in the armed forces.

Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., has promised a Senate vote. But Republicans have blocked previous attempts on procedural grounds. Further hurting chances of repeal is an agreement among the Senate GOP not to vote on any bill this month before addressing tax cuts and government spending.

Mom asks Calif jury to free her from medical watch

SANTA ANA, Calif. (AP)—A former hairdresser who claims postpartum psychosis caused her to run over her baby son in 1987 described on Thursday her descent into insanity to a jury that has the power to release her from court-ordered mental supervision.

Sheryl Lynn Massip, 46, repeatedly wiped away tears as she recounted her symptoms in the weeks after giving birth to her first child, Michael. The Southern California housewife said she would find herself outside without knowing how she got there, saw the walls and ceiling of her apartment move and thought her son's eyes were changing colors.

"I thought he was possessed," said Massip, who remarried and now goes by the last name Smith. "It's like recalling a dream that I had 23 1/2 years ago. It's like I was in a walking nightmare."

Massip was convicted of murder in 1988 for running over her 6-week-old son on her 23rd birthday, but a judge set aside the verdict and declared her not guilty by reason of insanity in a case that generated national debate about the limits of a "baby blues" legal defense.

The devout Lutheran testified during her criminal trial that she thought the child was a doll when she placed him under the left front wheel of the car and voices ordered her to put him out of his misery.



AP

Sheryl Lynn Massip testifies during her trial Thursday Dec. 2, 2010 in Santa Ana, Calif. Massip, who ran over her infant son in 1987 is is asking a jury to release her from medical supervision.

Since then, Massip has been under court-ordered medical care but hasn't served any time in prison or a state mental hospital. She has been diagnosed with bipolar disorder and a hormone imbalance that causes bouts of deep depression every month with her menstrual cycle, she said under questioning by Orange County prosecutor Aleta Bryant.

Massip cannot leave the state or move without court permission and has a home visit every three months—conditions she now feels are oppressive, her attorney Milton Grimes said outside court.

Massip has moved to Merced in Northern California with her family and is raising a healthy, happy 14-year-old daughter, Grimes said. She has appeared on several national TV talk shows, including "Oprah" and "Larry King Live," to discuss postpartum depression.

If the jury finds she is no longer a danger to herself and others, she will be declared legally sane and have no more restrictions on her life, he said. Her care providers agree she no longer needs supervision, he added.

"She wants freedom from the system that restricts her," Grimes said. "She's always going to live with the guilt of killing her son. That prison will always be there and she will always be in it."

Prosecutors, however, believe Massip could relapse dangerously if she is left to manage her own care.

Bryant claimed Massip discontinued all medication at one point in 2003, provoking so much concern that the court issued an order requiring her to comply with treatment. She also missed nine of 12 therapy appointments that year and often stops taking pills because she doesn't like the side effects, Bryant said.

ACROSS THE NATION

Video shows Ariz officer stepping on inmate's neck

PHOENIX (AP)—A jail surveillance video circulating online shows an Arizona detention officer stepping on the neck of an inmate who was restrained and bent over a table. Maricopa County sheriff's Chief Deputy Jerry Sheridan said Thursday that detention officer Kevin Gerster resigned on Wednesday following his arrest earlier in the week on aggravated assault and other charges. A Nov. 11 video released by the sheriff's office to members of the media on Monday shows inmate William Hughes handcuffed behind his back, bent over a table, and surrounded by three officers. An officer authorities have identified as Gerster walks up to the men, stands on the table, steps on Hughes' neck and appears to lean on the inmate.

Effort to oust Calif. gay marriage judge fails

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—An attempt to oust a liberal judge from hearing a landmark gay marriage case in California ended Thursday almost as quickly as it began. Judge Stephen Reinhardt of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals denied a request that he recuse himself from the Proposition 8 case because he is married to Ramona Ripston, who plans to retire in February as head of the American Civil Liberties Union's Southern California office. The ACLU is an outspoken opponent of Proposition 8.

Snowman with noose appalls Idaho home's neighbors

HAYDEN, Idaho (AP)—A white separatist drew complaints from neighbors and a visit from law enforcement officers after building a snowman shaped like a member of the Ku Klux Klan on his front lawn. Kootenai County sheriff's deputies told Mark Eliseuson Wednesday that he could be charged with a crime because the 10-foot-tall snowman was holding what appeared to be a noose. Deputies were called by neighbors who were appalled by the pointy-headed snowman with two dark eyes. Hayden for decades earned notoriety for being near the former rural compound of the Aryan Nations.

Asia

SKorea defense nominee vows airstrikes on North

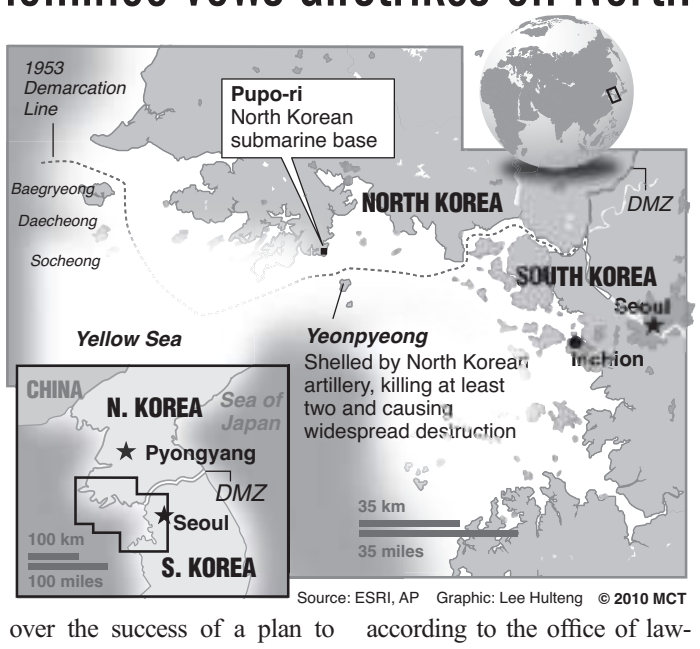
SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—President Lee Myung-bak's choice for new defense minister said Friday that South Korean jets will bomb North Korea should Pyongyang stage an attack similar to last week's deadly artillery barrage.

The tough words came as Lee's government suffered intense criticism that the response to the North's Nov. 23 shelling on a South Korean island was weak, and over a stunning revelation that the South's spy chief dismissed information in August indicating North Korea might attack the front-line island.

Lee's nominee, Kim Kwan-jin, told a parliamentary confirmation hearing that North Korean aggression will result in airstrikes. He said South Korea will use all its combat capabilities to retaliate.

"In case the enemy attacks our territory and people again, we will thoroughly retaliate to ensure that the enemy cannot provoke again," Kim said. The hearing is a formality as South Korea's National Assembly does not have the power to reject Lee's appointment.

Kim said it will be difficult for North Korea to conduct a full-scale war because of its weak economy and worries over the success of a plan to transfer power from leader Kim Jong Il to his young, untested son, Kim Jong Un.



Source: ESRI, AP Graphic: Lee Hulteng © 2010 MCT

Despite the bold declaration, questions have been raised about Lee's readiness—and even willingness—to stand up to the North. The president has been criticized for leading a military whose response to the attack was seen as too slow and too weak. The North fired 170 rounds compared with 80 returned by South Korea.

Satellite photos showed only about 10 South Korean rounds landed near North Korea's army barracks along the west coast, according to the office of lawmaker Kwon Young-se, who said he saw the images provided Thursday by the National Intelligence Service.

Also Friday, South Korea's Yonhap news agency reported that North Korea has boosted the number of multiple-launch rockets capable of hitting Seoul. Yonhap, citing an unidentified South Korean military source, said North Korea's rockets have increased by 100 pieces to about 5,200. Yonhap said North Korea is also believed to have deployed surface-to-air SA-2 missiles and SA-5 missiles near the heavily armed border between the rivals.

US, Japan begin large-scale military exercises

TOKYO (AP)—The U.S. and Japan began one of their biggest-ever military exercises on Friday with tens of thousands of troops, hundreds of aircraft and a U.S. supercarrier joining in drills that simulate an attack on Japanese territory.

The drills come just after the U.S. and South Korea concluded maneuvers following a North Korean artillery attack on an island near the disputed Korean sea border that left two South Korean marines and two civilians dead.

The Nov. 23 attack has heightened tensions in the region and renewed fears of a bigger clash breaking out that could draw in neighboring countries, including Japan, where about 50,000 U.S. troops are based under a security pact.

The drills are part of the annual "Keen Sword" maneuvers and involve tens of thousands of troops from both sides, including the supercarrier USS George Washington and its battle group. For the first time, the exercises also have observers from South Korea.

According to Japan's Defense Ministry, 34,100 Japanese personnel, 40 vessels and 250 aircraft from Japan's ground, maritime and air self-defense forces will take part, along with 10,400 troops, 20 ships and 150 aircraft from the U.S. military.

The USS George Washington supercarrier and its battle group, just back from the Yellow Sea, are joining in the drills.

The maneuvers, which were scheduled well before the North Korean incident, are to continue through Dec. 10.

"By conducting exercises such as Keen Sword, we are ensuring that our forces will continue to be effective in meeting the challenges of the 21st century," said Lt. Gen. Hawk Carlisle, commander of the U.S. 13th Air Force.

Officials said South Korea was included for the first time since the exercises were started in 1986 in an effort to bolster cooperation between the two neighbors.

"Japan-U.S. cooperation, as well as our three-way cooperation that includes South Korea, is extremely important for peace and stability in east Asia," Japan's Chief of Staff Gen. Ryoichi Oriki said.

Japan has reacted with alarm to the developments on the Korean peninsula. Prime Minister Naoto Kan even ordered his Cabinet ministers to stay near the capital in case of an emergency.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Clinton: US will consider keeping Kyrgyzstan base

BISHKEK, Kyrgyzstan (AP)—The United States will reconsider its military presence in the Central Asian nation of Kyrgyzstan once it winds down its combat mission in Afghanistan in 2014, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said Thursday. She offered no indication whether the Obama administration hopes to maintain a presence at the Manas air base, which plays a central role in moving troops and supplies to support the war effort in Afghanistan. Russia has objected to having the U.S. military set up so close to its borders.

US military ends Pakistan flood relief

ISLAMABAD (AP)—The U.S. military has ended its relief mission helping victims of this summer's floods in Pakistan. American choppers flew in from Afghanistan once the scale of the disaster became apparent in early August. They have flown hundreds of missions in the northwest and in Punjab, dropping off food and relief supplies and rescuing stranded people.

World

US cables: Mexico drug war lacks clear strategy

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Mexico's 4-year-old assault on drug cartels lacks a clear strategy and a modernized military, and suffers from infighting among security agencies, according to U.S. State Department cables leaked to WikiLeaks.

The classified and secret memos posted on several media websites Thursday stand in stark contrast to the public declarations by Mexico and the U.S. about the success of the war on organized crime. The cables call into question many of the efforts publicly touted by the two countries, from the use of the Mexican army, which is described as outdated, slow and risk averse, to the United States' $1.4 billion Merida Initiative, which is seen as ill-conceived and doing little so far to fight drug traffickers.

In one cable, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton asks about how the stress is affecting President Felipe Calderon's "personality and management style," while a cable by U.S. Ambassador to Mexico Carlos Pascual notes that Calderon has admitted to having a tough year and has appeared "down" in meetings.

"Calderon has aggressively attacked Mexico's drug-trafficking organizations but has struggled with an unwieldy and uncoordinated interagency and spiraling rates of violence that have made him vulnerable to criticism that his anti-crime strategy has failed," reads a Jan. 29 memo called "Scenesetter for Opening of the Defense Bilateral Working Group" that also criticizes competition among Mexican security agencies, corruption and Mexico's abysmally low prosecution rate.

In a memo date Oct. 5, 2009, then-Undersecretary for the Interior Geronimo Gutierrez Fernandez, who oversaw domestic security, "expressed a real concern with 'losing' certain regions."

"It is damaging Mexico's international reputation, hurting foreign investment, and leading to a sense of government impotence, Gutierrez said," according to the memo.

"If we do not produce a tangible success that is recognizable to the Mexican people, it will be difficult to sustain the confrontation into the next administration," the memo quotes him as saying.

Calderon has insisted that the spike in violence that has killed more than 28,000 people since 2006 is a sign that the drug cartels are on the ropes and that the government controls all areas of the country.

The noose tightens around WikiLeaks' Assange

LONDON (AP)—The law is closing in on Julian Assange. Swedish authorities won a court ruling Thursday in their bid to arrest the WikiLeaks founder for questioning in a rape case, British intelligence is said to know where in England he's hiding, and U.S. pundits and politicians are demanding he be hunted down or worse.

The former computer hacker who has embarrassed the U.S. government and foreign leaders with his online release of a huge trove of secret American diplomatic cables suffered a legal setback when Sweden's Supreme Court upheld an order to detain him—a move that could lead to his extradition. Meanwhile, Assange continues to leak sensitive documents. Newly posted cables on WikiLeaks' website detailed a host of embarrassing disclosures, including allegations that Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi accepted kickbacks and a deeply unflattering assessment of Turkmenistan's president.

Assange is accused in Sweden of rape, sexual molestation and coercion in a case from August, and Swedish officials have alerted Interpol and issued a European arrest warrant to bring him in for questioning.

The 39-year-old Australian denies the charges, which his lawyer, Mark Stephens, said apparently stemmed from a "dispute over consensual but unprotected sex." Stephens said the case is turning into an exercise in persecution.

While Assange has not made a public appearance for nearly a month, his lawyer insisted authorities know where to find him.

"Both the British and the Swedish authorities know how to contact him, and the security services know exactly where he is," Stephens told The Associated Press.

It was unclear if or when police would act on Sweden's demands. Police there acknowledged Thursday they would have to refile their European arrest warrant after British authorities asked for more details on the maximum penalties for the three crimes.

Scotland Yard declined comment, as did the Serious and Organized Crime Agency, responsible for processing European arrest warrants for suspects in England—where The Guardian claims Assange is hiding out.

WORLD BRIEFS

Biggest-ever Israeli forest fire kills dozens

MEGADIM, Israel (AP)—Dozens of Israeli guards trying to rescue prisoners threatened by the worst forest fire in the country's history died Thursday when their bus became trapped in the same inferno. As the guards raced toward the prison holding mostly Palestinians, a lone tree fell across the road, blocking their path. With no way out, many of them were burned alive inside the vehicle. Others perished while trying to flee the flames fed by brush left tinder-dry by lack of rain. When the smoke cleared, at least 36 were dead.

Ivory Coast opposition leader named winner of vote

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast (AP)—The head of Ivory Coast's electoral commission on Thursday declared opposition leader Alassane Ouattara the winner of the West African country's contested presidential election in comments that were not broadcast on state TV, before ruling party loyalists called the announcement an 'attempted coup' and took to the airwaves to denounce them as unofficial. Election commission chief Youssouf Bakayoko said Ouattara had won with 54.1 percent of the vote, compared to 45.9 percent for incumbent Laurent Gbagbo after days of backroom wrangling during which the ruling party had physically prevented other commission members from announcing the outcome of the vote.

Cuba mulls Salvadoran's death sentence for terror

HAVANA (AP)—Cuba's Supreme Court has begun reviewing the death sentence of a Salvadoran man convicted of terrorism for a series of hotel bombs in 1997. Government website Cubadebate said the review of Ernesto Cruz Leon's sentence began Thursday, but it did not give details of the process or a timetable. Cruz Leon confessed to planting bombs in five Cuban hotels and a restaurant between July and September 1997 in a plot to scare away tourists and hurt a prime source of income for the island.

Maharlika

PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS

Saturday, December 4, 2010

Fewer OFWs seen availing of free health screening

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

The Philippine Consul General Office on Saipan expects to see a decline in the number of Filipino workers who will avail of the Free Health Screening for OFWs on Dec. 5.

"Fewer Filipinos may avail of this health screening due to the decreasing population of our workers here on Saipan," Consul General Medardo Macaraig told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

According to consulate statistics, a total of 1,601 Filipino workers took advantage of the free health screening program in 2009. Of this number, 1,228 availed of the blood pressure and blood sugar check-ups while 373 had the vision check-up.

For the first three quarters of this year, a total of 1,168 Filipino workers have benefited from the health screening.

The Free Health Screening for OFWs aims to increase the level of awareness on diabetes prevention and control, hypertension prevention, and vision pressure correction among Filipinos on island.

It is held every first Sunday of the last month of the quarter on the ground floor of the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe.

"Through this project, the Philippine Consulate General hopes to reach more and serve even if in a modest way, the medical needs, while fostering the spirit of volunteerism in the true spirit of Filipino *bayanihan* in Saipan," said the Consulate in a statement.



Macaraig

Registration for the Free Health Screening for OFWs is from 6am to 8am. Actual health screening will be conducted from 8am to noon.

Medical services to be provided are blood sugar, blood pressure, and vision check up. Individuals who want to avail of the blood sugar test must not eat or drink anything at least 12 hours prior to the screening.

The Free Health Screening for OFWs is a program by the Philippine Consulate General, the Philippine Overseas Labor Office, and the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration in collaboration with the Filipino Volunteer Medical Team, CNMI Pharmacist Association, and Hardt Eye Clinic.

Simbang Gabi group launches annual fundraising to build classrooms in PH

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Saipan Simbang Gabi Group, a non-profit corporation that aims to address classroom shortage in the Philippines, intends to raise more funds this Christmas season to build more classrooms for public schools.

The group, founded in 1977, is now preparing for the traditional *Simbang Gabi* (dawn Masses) at the Mt. Carmel Cathedral during which the assigned sponsor coordinator for each of the nine days solicit sponsorships to raise $8,000 for the construction of much needed classrooms in the Philippines.

Saipan Simbang Gabi Group works closely with the Philippine Overseas Labor Office to identify schools in depressed areas in the Philippines that are in dire need of classrooms.

Through the generous donations, the group has already funded the construction of classrooms in Lagonglong Elementary School in Misamis Oriental, Lalawigan Elementary School in Bonronggan, Samar, and Labnig Elementary School in Albay.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Children admire a Christmas tree at Paseo de Marianas Thursday night. The United Filipino Organization, the umbrella organization of Filipino groups in the CNMI, starts preparations for the 2010 Paskong Pinoy in celebration of the holiday season.

"The work is not yet done. This year, our nine coordinators will again humbly ask for your undying generosity and unselfish support," said chair Mar Pacson.

The sponsor coordinators are the Philippine Consulate General and United Filipino Organization on Dec. 16; Mar Pacson and Lions Club on Dec. 17; Rommel and Racquel Mostales on Dec. 18; Vir and Alice Abueme on Dec. 19; Eddie and Helen Caranzo on Dec. 20; Celia Pagapular and Charlene Valle on Dec. 21; Malou Mendoza and Linda Torres on Dec. 22; Maribel Loste and Nory Pamintuan on Dec. 23; and Nenette Delos Santos and Rene Atienza on Dec. 24.

Pacson said any amount of donation will be appreciated and go toward the sponsorship of the classroom building project under the Classrooms *Galing sa Manggagawa* Abroad program.

For more information about Simbang Gabi Group, call 235-5009 or 234-8476.

UFO gears up for 2010 Paskong Pinoy

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

With Christmas just around the corner, the United Filipino Organization is now gearing up for another season of merriment during this year's Paskong Pinoy.

Olive Yana, president of the umbrella organization of some 30 Filipino groups in the CNMI, said the 2010 Paskong Pinoy is slated for Dec. 18, Saturday, from 4pm to 9pm at Mt. Carmel Cathedral grounds.

"The annual Paskong Pinoy is the culminating activity for the group and everyone is invited to join in the festivities," she said.

Yana told *Saipan Tribune* that this year's Christmas celebration will feature various sing and dance performances as well as talent contests like singing and lantern making.

According to Yana, there will be two categories for the singing contest: the choir and the children 8-12 year categories. Cash prizes up for grabs are $100, $75, and $50.

The lantern making contest is open to all individuals and organizations wanting to submit lantern entries that reflect the Christmas season. Winners will bring home cash prizes of $100, $75, and $50.

Yana said they are seeking individual and group volunteers who want to perform during the program as well as sponsors and donors for the 2010 Paskong Pinoy.

Interested individuals may call Olive Yana at 234-6529, Anna Mae Adaza at 288-1990 or Minda Castro at 989-0604.

Govt says to beef up OFW centers abroad

By JEREMAIAH M. OPINIANO
OFW JOURNALISM CONSORTIUM

MANILA—The Philippines's labor department reiterated its policy to reinforce centers for overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) abroad by deploying more employees overseas.

This was one of the policy pronouncements inscribed in the Department of Labor and Employment document for the first hundred days of President Benigno Aquino III that ended October 8.

"Work with the DFA to transform Philippine embassies, consular offices and Philippine Overseas Labor Offices (POLOs) into centers of care and service for overseas workers by assigning more foreign service officers to post where there are many OFWs and train them in the needs of the communities they serve," the DOLE said in its 22-point Platform and Policy Pronouncements on Labor and Employment.

The pronouncements came after the International Organization for Migration released a report recommending that government provide more resources to Filipino Workers Resource Centers (FWRCs) so that services may be expanded.

The report titled "Migrant Resource Centers: An Initial Assessment" said that apart from resources, government should also make sure FWRCs are used by as many potential clients and that migrants' savings and skills are appropriately used inside these centers.

An FWRC is mandated by section 19 of Philippine Republic Act 8042 (or the 1995 Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act) to be set up in any country where there are more than 20,000 OFWs.

FWRCs were among the earliest formed migrant resource centers (MRCs) worldwide, next to the Australia's Spectrum MRC, which was formed in 1976.

Currently, there are 21 FWRCs found in 18 countries, with three of them in OFW-rich Saudi Arabia and two in the United Arab Emirates –another OFW beehive in the Middle East region.

IOM assessed some 13 MRCs, whether set up in the origin country of migrants and/or in host countries, including those from Albania, Australia, Colombia, Croatia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Lebanon, Mali, Portugal, Slovakia, Sri Lanka, and Tajikistan.

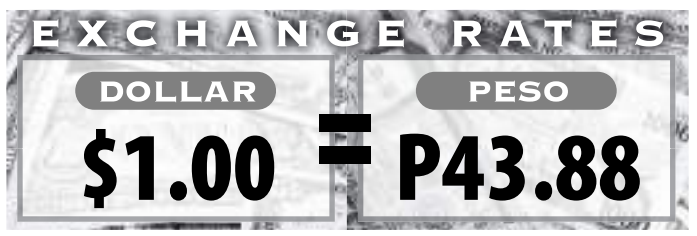
The IOM report, written by Paul Tacon and Elizabeth Warn, defines MRCs as "physical structures which provide services directly to migrants to facilitate and promote their recourse to legal, voluntary, orderly and protected migration."

ON REPORTS OF Q3 SLOW GROWTH

Peso retreats to P44 vs US dollar

By MICHELLE REMO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—The peso fell back to the 44-to-a-dollar territory on Thursday, after temporarily recovering with the P43 mark the previous day, even as the government reported a slower-than-expected growth of the economy for the third quarter.



The local currency closed at 44.08 against the greenback, down by 11 centavos from the Wednesday's finish of 43.97. On Tuesday, the peso closed at 44.2, the first time it entered the 44:$1 level in two months.

Intraday high on Thursday stood at 43.98:$1, while intraday low settled at 44.15:$1. Volume of trade inched up to $873.69 million from $761.09 million.

While the decline of the peso to the 44:$1 territory on Tuesday was due to an external factor, particularly the tension in Korea that dragged major Asian currencies, the drop on Thursday was due to internal factor.

Traders said the less-than-expected growth of the economy in the third quarter prompted some investors to shift their funds into dollars.

The economy grew by 6.5 percent year-on-year in the third quarter, slower than the government's projection for the quarter of between 6.7 and 7.7 percent.

However, the average growth for the first three quarters of the year was still robust at 7.5 percent, well above the official target for the full year of 5 to 6 percent.

Cory Aquino is among TIME's 25 most powerful women of the past century

By ABIGAIL KWOK
INQUIRER.NET

MANILA, Philippines—The late Corazon "Cory" Aquino, the icon of democracy and mother of President Benigno Aquino III, has been named as one of Time Magazine's 25 Most Powerful Women of the Past Century.

"Cory Aquino had no political ambitions of her own until her husband Senator Benigno Aquino Jr. was assassinated in 1983," Time began in its description of the former president.

"Almost instantly, she became a unifying force against the autocratic President Ferdinand Marcos and ran in the 1986 presidential election."

Time also recognized Cory as the "people's choice," surviving coup attempts and corruption charges.

Cory was ranked among other influential and powerful women that included politicians, scientists, and rights advocates.

Some of those named are: Indira Gandhi, Angela Merkel, Margaret Thatcher, Oprah Winfrey, and US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

Indira Gandhi served as India's Prime Minister in 1966 and is known as the world's longest-serving prime minister. Gandhi (not related to Mohandas Gandhi) served at a tumultuous time in India. But she was credited for effectively guiding the nation "through recession, famine, the detonation of the nation's first atomic bomb, a corruption scandal and a civil war in neighboring Pakistan that, under her guidance, led to the creation of a new state, Bangladesh," Time said.

Gandhi was assassinated in 1984.

Angela Merkel served as Germany's first female Chancellor in 2005. Merkel was a known protégé of Chancellor Helmot Kohl but even this she proved that she was beholden to no one.



The late Philippine president Corazon "Cory" Aquino.

Time wrote: "In 1999, she demonstrated she was beholden to nobody when she wrote an editorial criticizing Kohl for his involvement in a slush-fund scandal, becoming the first member of his Cabinet to break with him."

To this day, Merkel is still recognized as a global authority, whether it be speaking on issues of climate change or the economy.

Known as Britain's "Iron Lady," Margaret Thatcher was Europe's first ever female Prime Minister. A chemist and a barrister, Thatcher was a staunch advocate of privatization of state enterprises and lower taxes. She also fought hard for a free-market economy for Britain.

Popularly known for a talk show named after her, Oprah Winfrey is not just a television personality but also a philanthropist and a businesswoman. The multi-awarded Oprah Winfrey Show is shown in 145 countries and is known as the most successful daytime TV show ever.

"Winfrey's unparalleled influence on culture — often called "the Oprah effect" — has boosted lesser-known authors onto the New York Times best-sellers list while reviving America's interest in classic literature (John Steinbeck), turned obscure products into household brands (Spanx, Ciao Bella), and helped a whole battery of other personalities become full-fledged media powers of their own (Dr. Phil, Dr. Oz, Rachael Ray)," Time said.

As evidence of her strong influence over America, Oprah's endorsement of then US presidential candidate Barack Obama has contributed over 1 million votes to Obama over Hillary Clinton.

Clinton was recognized as a staunch defender of children since she was in law school. The former first lady was also able to step out of the shadows of her husband, having won a seat in the Senate and eventually as an authority over military affairs. Time also credited Clinton for gaining the support of top US military officials.

Following is the complete list of the "women who have most influenced our world" based on TIME surveys:

1. Jane Addams (1860-1935)
2. Corazon Aquino (1933-2009)
3. Rachel Carson (1907-1964)
4. Coco Chanel (1883-1971)
5. Julia Child (1912-2004)
6. Hillary Clinton (1947-Present)
7. Marie Curie (1867-1934)
8. Aretha Franklin (1942-Present)
9. Indira Gandhi (1917-1984)
10. Estée Lauder (1908-2004)
11. Madonna (1958-Present)
12. Margaret Mead (1901-1978)
13. Golda Meir (1898-1978)
14. Angela Merkel (1954-Present)
15. Sandra Day O'Connor (1930-Present)
16. Rosa Parks (1913-2005)
17. Jiang Qing (1914-1991)

Finding Lacson not Aquino's priority

By NORMAN BORDADORA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Finding Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson is not No. 1 in President Benigno Aquino III's to-do list in the field of law enforcement.

The President himself indicated this to the Philippine Daily Inquirer during its 25th anniversary party at the Makati Shangri-La on Wednesday night.



Lacson

He said he was more concerned with the arrest of persons involved in violent crimes and who continued to victimize other citizens.

"It can't be that everything is a priority at the same time," Aquino said when asked if he did not consider the fugitive senator's arrest a priority.

"He can be assured that his rights will be protected. Beyond that, it is not in my purview to judge his innocence or guilt," Aquino said of the senator, who is his ally.

He also said he had not received any communication from Lacson: "I haven't talked to him. I haven't seen him. I haven't gotten a letter from him."

Abigail Valte, the President's deputy spokesperson, Thursday said the government remained in pursuit of Lacson to bring him to justice.

"We've always said that … it will be best if he submits himself to the justice system," Valte said.

Priorities

Aquino said his priorities were shooting incidents, the proliferation of explosives, smuggling and drug trafficking.

"Will I prioritize one [whose location is] still unclear, whether he's here or not, or one who continues to victimize people in the country?" he said.

Directly addressing the issue of the proposed P2-million reward for Lacson's arrest, Aquino said: "As you know, we don't have funds for so many things."

Four shot dead in hijacked bus

By DELFIN MALLARI JR.
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

LUCENA CITY—Gunmen seized a bus after robbing a hardware store Thursday and engaged pursuing security forces in a gun battle that left four civilians dead, police said.

The Philippine Army initially described the fatalities—two men and two women—as communist guerrillas, but police said the four were among six civilians inside the bus that smashed into a tree as troops chased the robbers from nearby San Francisco town.

The dead were identified as passengers Joel Pines, Teodora Tolentino and Cherry Gil Maaliw and bus conductor Joel Cavanes.

"They were caught in the crossfire," police Senior Supt. Erickson Velasquez said. "Three of them were found inside the bus while the other was thrown out of the vehicle after it slammed into a tree."

Two members of the robbery gang—Wilmer Alvasan and Dante Cada who was wounded—were later captured but the rest escaped and were being hunted.

The Commission on Human Rights will investigate the deaths of the civilians, said Edgar de Luna, CHR chief investigator in the region.

Reds spotted on bus

Lt. Col. Dennis Perez, the commander of the Army's 74th Infantry Battalion in Catanauan, had told the Inquirer that a group of communist guerrillas on the bus was spotted by police in San Francisco town.

Police in San Francisco and the adjacent town, Mulanay, gave chase leading to a clash, Perez said.

Alerted by police, Army soldiers positioned a blocking force but was fired upon by the gunmen, according to Perez on Wednesday.

The bus smashed into a tree and an exchange of gunfire ensued.

Col. Generoso Bolina, spokesperson of the Armed Forces Southern Luzon Command at Camp Nakar, said the initial military report that tagged the armed men as New People's Army rebels was based on information provided by bus passengers.

"When the battle ended, the passengers told the Army that the armed group had declared themselves NPA rebels," Bolina said in a phone interview.

San Francisco, Mulanay and Catanauan towns are in the Bondoc Peninsula area, a known hotbed of communist insurgents in the Southern Tagalog region.

PHILIPPINE BRIEFS

Legion of Honor for late US lawmaker

MANILA, Philippinies—President Benigno Aquino III has decided to confer the Philippine Legion Honor with the rank of Chief Commander on the late former New York Representative Stephen Solarz, Malacañang announced on Wednesday afternoon. Solarz was one of the Americans who helped bring to fore the excesses of the Marcoses during the dictatorship. A member of the US House of Representatives, Solarz met with then President Ferdinand Marcos in 1983 and told the dictator of reduced aid if the issue of government abuses was not addressed. Three days after Solarz met Marcos, the President's father, then opposition leader and former senator Benigno Aquino, Jr., returned from the United States and was shot and killed on the airport tarmac. (Philippine Daily Inquirer)

Philippines asks peace monitors to extend stay

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—An official says the Philippine government has asked international peace monitors to extend their stay for three more months amid delays in the resumption of peace talks with Muslim rebels in the country's volatile south. Presidential peace adviser Teresita Deles said Thursday the Department of Foreign Affairs has sent the request to countries participating in the Malaysian-led International Monitoring Team. The team's one-year mandate to monitor the cease-fire with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front expires Dec. 9. Malaysia, Brunei, Libya and Japan are members of the monitoring team.

4 vehicles in multiple collision near Magallanes flyover

MANILA, Philippines—Four vehicles—3 cars and a bus'were involved in a multiple collision near the Magallanes flyover in Makati City Friday morning although no one was hurt in the accident, according to a report on Radyo Inquirer. Authorities are still investigating the reason for the mishap, the report said. It also said that the vehicles have been moved, easing traffic flow at the southbound lane of EDSA going to Muntinlupa City. ***(INQUIRER.net)***

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11 Filipinos stranded in US seek government help

By LIRA DALANGIN-FERNANDES
INQUIRER.NET

MANILA, Philippines—Eleven Filipinos who are allegedly victims of human trafficking in the United States are seeking help from the Philippine government to allow them to pursue their case against their recruiters.

The group is now in Los Angeles and has reportedly been subsisting on support from the Filipino community for their food and daily expenses.

"The Filipino community in Los Angeles is helping them, but we are also seeking assistance from the government, particularly the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, so they can pursue their case here," Deputy Speaker and Quezon Representative Lorenzo Tanada III said in a phone interview Thursday.

In October Tanada me with the hapless Filipinos, who expressed their desire to stay in the US while the Federal Bureau of Investigation is investigating their case.

The Department of Foreign Affairs has a legal assistance fund, which is supposedly allotted for the legal needs of overseas Filipino workers in distress. In the 2011 budget, the legal assistance fund has been appropriated P25 million, even if the Migrant Workers Act states that it should get at least P100 million.

The OFWs—Rufino de Guzman of Bulacan, Norman Paul Yaranon of Pangasinan, Ronilo Cruz of Nueva Ecija, Ricardo Jabagat of Negros Oriental, Vuenas Ian de la Puerta of Iloilo, Mario Abaday of Batangas, Manuel Jusayan of Samar, Imelda Nosa of Cavite, Arlene Dorotan of Ilocos Norte, and Eutropia Velasco and Khalid Anthony Velasco, both of Quezon province—were recruited by ADMAN Human Resource Placement and Promotions in Manila for a seasonal work program in Virginia and Colorado under Aramark.

The workers spent around $7,000 for medical examinations, job placement, and work visas before securing the necessary papers to travel to the US.

Aramark is a "leader in professional services, providing award-winning food services, facilities management, and uniform and career apparel to healthcare institutions, universities and school districts, stadiums and arenas, and businesses around the world," according to the company's website.

It is listed in Fortune Magazine's 2010 list of "World's Most Admired Companies."

The OFWs were promised a wage of $7.25 to $8 per hour for cleaning hotel rooms, but were just given $4.75 per room.

And instead of working in Virginia and Colorado, the OFWs were deployed to Biloxi, Mississippi, allegedly under Royal Hospitality Services Inc.

However, Aramark and Royal Hospitality Services said the contract appeared to be forged and that they have no office or outlet in Mississippi, according to a report by ABS-CBN news.

"The employment offer to these individuals was obviously fake. We are now faced with the question: Which government agency should have verified this? Was it in the Philippines or the United States?" Tanada said in a privilege speech on Tuesday.

The Quezon lawmaker said that the case of the 11 OFWs could just be the "tip of the iceberg."

"How many more agencies registered have been practicing this sort of manipulation against vulnerable Filipinos seeking employment for the future of their families? And how many are those agencies which are not registered but still manage to traffic our countrymen abroad?... No matter how many agencies we register and suspend, trafficking in persons covertly occurs right under our noses," Tanada said.

He said the country has enough laws including the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act (or Republic Act 9208) and the Migrant Workers Act, but that these are not being fully enforced because trafficking cases such as the experience of the 11 OFWs still happen.

Pacquiao ready to make a birthday hit list

LAS VEGAS—Manny Pacquiao will meet with trainer Freddie Roach and promoter Bob Arum in two weeks for his 32nd birthday party and ponder a trio of possible future foes who are not Floyd Mayweather Jr.

Arum said that the Filipino superstar will fight next on April 16 at Las Vegas, his first bout there since November of last year, against a foe to be determined.

Fans have longed to see Pacquiao, 52-3 with two drawn and 38 knockouts, in a showdown with unbeaten American Mayweather, 41-0 with 25 knockouts. But the US boxer faces a January arraignment over a dispute with an ex-girlfriend.

With a Mayweather deal unlikely, Arum said Pacquiao will decide if he wants to fight Mexico's Juan Manuel Marquez for a third time or face either US veteran Shane Mosley or unbeaten US welterweight Andre Berto.

"Pac-Man", Roach and Arum will gather in the Philippines for Pacquiao's birthday bash on December 17 and consider the matter, with the fighter and Filipino Congressman having the final say. For his part, Arum would like the name recognition value offered by a fight against Mosley, 46-6 with one draw and 39 knockouts.

But Mosley, 39, was overwhelmed by Mayweather in a unanimous decision loss last May and struggled to a draw against countryman Sergio Mora last September.

Berto, 27, has less of a following but at 27-0 with 20 knockouts could offer the most compelling fight.

Completing a trilogy against Marquez could be enticing after Pacquiao settled for a draw in their 2004 meeting and won by split decision in 2008. Marquez also lost to Mayweather but has defended his lightweight title twice since.

But a Marquez fight would mean a deal coming together between bitter rival promoters Arum and Richard Schaefer, also on opposite sides in failed Mayweather talks. ***(Agence France-Presse)***



BOXING AS ART AP
Fireworks light the sky during unveiling of the bronze statue of Filipino boxer Manny "Pacman" Pacquiao Friday, Nov. 26, 2010 in a seaside park in suburban Pasay City south of Manila, Philippines. The art installation was also a tribute to hardworking Filipinos as represented by other figures.

Juan Manuel Marquez submits terms to fight Manny Pacquiao

By LANCE PUGMIRE
LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES—Juan Manuel Marquez and two other boxers vying to become Manny Pacquiao's next opponent submitted term sheets to the Filipino star's promoter, it was learned Thursday, while the yearlong pursuit of a much-anticipated Pacquiao-Floyd Mayweather Jr. super-fight remained bitterly out of reach.

Marquez's promoter, Richard Schaefer, said he has turned over to Top Rank the financial terms and weight limit under which the lightweight title holder would agree to a third fight with Pacquiao.

Similar term sheets were filed by world welterweight champions Andre Berto and Pomona's Shane Mosley, and all will be discussed with Pacquiao when the fighter celebrates his 32nd birthday on Dec. 17 in the Philippines.

Specifics of Marquez's terms were not released but Schaefer, who also represents Mayweather, characterized the proposal as "very fair and reasonable."

Marquez, who fought Pacquiao to a 2004 draw and then lost in a 2008 split-decision he disputed, earned about $3 million in the second bout. A third fight would be worth substantially more given Pacquiao's standing and Marquez's warrior reputation.

Yet one barrier to a Pacquiao-Marquez bout is the friction between Schaefer and Top Rank's chairman, Bob Arum, that has prevented a Pacquiao-Mayweather fight.

On Thursday, Schaefer bristled at comments from the day before in which Arum told the Los Angeles Times that only "an idiot" would use Mayweather's current legal trouble in Nevada to delay negotiations with Pacquiao. Mayweather faces felony and misdemeanor charges for allegedly striking the mother of his children and threatening his kids. A preliminary hearing is set for Jan. 24.

Schaefer, who has promoted all of Mayweather's fights since 2007, has said he would respect Nevada's legal process before scheduling a Mayweather fight.

But Arum also had said no elected Nevada judge is going to interfere with a bout that could generate $500 million in the state's economy.

"What kind of stupid comment is that from a Harvard lawyer?" Schaefer asked Thursday. "Not everyone thinks money first. ... There's no price on doing things the right way, and if Floyd wants to let his legal process play out before he agrees to the fight, I support him."

Arum, told of Schaefer's comments, cracked, "Where did he pass his bar exam? He's not even connected to Mayweather. He's a hoper, a wannabe. I know for a fact Floyd has not decided who's going to represent him for his next fight. Schaefer has no leg up. I hear the leading horse in that race is Don King."

Pacquiao may want to have his next opponent in place before Christmas since Arum set the April 16 date for the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas.

"If I don't hear from Floyd by the time I'm in the Philippines, it's probably too late," Arum said. "Floyd knows all he has to do is pick up the phone ... and it'll get done."

Schaefer acknowledged, though, that he has not been officially informed by the Mayweather camp whether the unbeaten boxer wants to see his legal situation settled first. Leonard Ellerbe, Mayweather's advisor, failed to return messages seeking comment Thursday.

"Floyd Mayweather is not on a Manny Pacquiao clock," Schaefer said. "Money is not above the law in Nevada or anywhere else in this country. And if believing that makes me an idiot, I'm happy to be an idiot."

Foreigners told: Indefinite stay not automatic after marriage to Filipino

By TETCH TORRES
INQUIRER.NET

MANILA, Philippines—The Bureau of Immigration on Thursday reminded foreigners that marriage to a Filipino does not give them the right to stay indefinitely or acquire permanent residence in the Philippines.

Thus, William Silas Parlin, 41, will undergo deportation proceedings after he was arrested by Immigration officials last November 22.

Silas, who was given a permanent visa by the BI due to his marriage to a Filipina, is wanted in the United States for mail fraud.

"The fact that he is married to a Filipina does not withdraw him from the operation of our immigration laws nor does it make him ipso facto a Filipino citizen," said Ledesma.

He said aliens admitted into the country have no right of indefinite stay, although a foreigner may apply for permanent residence if he or she is married to a Filipino citizen.

"However, since the stay of aliens in our country is just a privilege, even if they are married to Filipinos, Parlin lost that privilege when we found out that he is a fugitive from justice and, therefore, an undesirable alien," Ledesma added.

Parlin was arrested in his residence in Pateros on the strength of a deportation warrant issued by Ledesma pursuant to a summary deportation order of the BI board of commissioners.

BI intelligence chief Faizal Hussin said Parlin will soon be deported to the US to stand trial for mail fraud before a US district court in Maine, which issued a warrant for his arrest.

Hussin also said the US State Department had revoked Parlin's passport which made him an undocumented alien.

Maharlika – PinoyStyle

Charise, neurosurgeon chosen world-class Filipinos

By KAREN BONCOCAN
INQUIRER.NET

MANILA, Philippines—International singing sensation Charmaine Clarice "Charice" Pempengco and neurosurgeon Dr. Manuel "Manny" Cacdac have been awarded with the BPInoy Award for showing the world the Filipino values that make them the best in the professions they chose abroad.

"Every year for the past five years, the Bank of the Philippine Islands has recognized remarkable Filipinos who have made us proud to be Pinoys," said BPI president and CEO Aurelio Montinola III, adding that the bank will continue awarding notable Filipinos abroad who exemplify world class excellence in their chosen fields.

Teresita Tan, BPI executive vice president and head of overseas banking and channel services group said that Filipinos who excel in their craft abroad and continue to give back to the homeland is an inspiration to all Filipinos.

Charmaine Clarice "Charice" Pempengco

A competitor in singing at the age of 7, Pempengco made it big after a fan posted several videos of her song numbers on YouTube back in 2007. The viral videos


Charice

would soon have her flying to the US as a guest in several television shows like the Ellen DeGeneres Show and the Oprah Winfrey Show.

Since then, Pempengco has been well-received as an international singer, with her career soaring at a record high with a stint in the television series Glee. She was also named as the first Asian to land in the Top 10 of the Billboard 200 album chart.

Although unable to personally receive the award due to her various commitments abroad, Pempengco relayed through a video how all the challenges she faced were well worth the effort, if it meant recognition for Filipino talent. The singer also said that she has always kept her countrymen in mind and will continue doing so with every song she sings.

Dr. Manuel "Manny" Cacdac

Dr. Cacdac said that he was very surprised when his cousin, who nominated him for the award, told him that he'd been named as one of the two awardees for the 2010 BPInoy Awards. The


Cacdac

neurosurgeon said that even through his battle with colon cancer, he "forged on" to put up the Hydrocephalus Foundation of the Philippines.

A graduate of the University of Sto. Tomas, Cacdac would later find himself studying and practicing in the United States.

With experience from different hospitals in the US, Cacdac has been involved with various surgical missions in the Philippines since the '90s, and continues to be even more committed as the Hydrocephalus Foundation of the Philippines was formally approved on May 10.

Cacdac is an attending neurosurgeon at the Terre Haute Regional and Union Hospital in Indiana. He regularly travels from the US to the Philippines to operate on babies stricken with hydrocephalus.

"We are creating an avenue for Filipinos all over the world to connect, inspire and to celebrate distinct nationalistic pride in everyone," said Tan, adding that we are truly making our presence known as globally competitive Filipinos.

Vicky Morales: The hardest wish to grant

By MARINEL CRUZ
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Vicky Morales says being a mom (to three kids) has helped her become a better public service show host.

"It's really different now that I have children," says the mom of twins Leon and Pipo, 2, and Daniela, 1 month and a half. "Sometimes I can't help putting myself in the shoes of the mothers whose kids are sick. I can feel their anguish."

Vicky hosts the weekly program "Wish Ko Lang" (GMA 7), which is celebrating its eighth anniversary. As part of its "Pangarap Tour" feature, the program recently rushed to the rescue of a bedridden young man in Kalinga, and Ifugao grade school kids in dire need of reading materials in their library.


Motherhood has changed my views on a lot of things," says Vicky Morales, here with baby Daniela, now 1 month and a half.

Tomorrow, actress Elizabeth Oropesa will be featured in one of the show's "Good Samaritan" episodes. On December 11, Vicky will take viewers to Davao, where a man named Gildo has been suffering from a parasitic disease called filariasis since 2003.

"Motherhood has changed my views on a lot of things. I'm more [pressed for time] but also more appreciative of people and things around me," says Vicky, winner of this year's Best Public Service Program Host award from the Philippine Movie Press Club (PMPC).

She admits she is constantly trying to strike a balance between motherhood and her profession as a journalist. "When I leave the house, the kids are getting ready for bed," says Vicky, who also anchors the late-night news program "Saksi." "They ask me to stay. It breaks my heart to leave them crying. Sometimes, I sneak out, but I've been told that's not good; they may not trust me anymore. So I just try to be truthful to them and make up for lost time during weekends."

Do you have a say on what case to feature on "Wish?"

I don't take an active role in it. When the production team meets, I give suggestions, but I don't participate in the selection process.

What suggestion of yours, for example, got featured on the show?

A woman wanted to meet former President Fidel V. Ramos. Her sister, a flight attendant, told me. It was a funny story. The woman also resembled Ming (FVR's wife).

You must get a lot of letters.

Sackfuls. Sometimes, the staff of other shows, like "Imbestigador," refer cases to us. When people approach me even in malls, I tell them to put their requests in writing, so I can present them to our staff.

What is the hardest wish to grant?

Medical cases. Some people request assistance for chemotherapy or dialysis. We can't sustain those for an entire year. We want to help but the show has limitations. So we ask, "What else can make the patient happy?" Sometimes a patient wishes for a family reunion; 'yun, kaya namin.

Would you know which story got the highest viewership rating to date?

I think it was the story of Mang Vicente, who had a big cyst on his jaw. We call him Panga. We documented everything, starting from his operation. He now lives a normal life. The feature on (former president) Erap Estrada visiting his friend Palito also did well in the ratings.

What's the plan for the show's ninth year?

We'd like to feature more compelling stories. Gusto ko yung talagang mapapaluha ang manonood. I remember when we were just starting, a fortune teller told us that "Wish" would last for seven years. We all thought that was a long time. "Wish Ko Lang" airs Saturdays, after "Star Talk."

Aiko Melendez, Martin Jickain: Singles again

By DOLLY ANNE CARVAJAL
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER


Melendez


Jickain

I cornered ex-couple Aiko Melendez and Martin Jickain for their sentiments about their newfound freedom, now that they're both officially single again.

"I am happy that after almost three years of waiting, the court has finally granted the annulment," Aiko said. "I'm sure that Martin is also happy about it as we know that we have our respective partners already. But that doesn't mean that I will be in a hurry to get married again. I will take things slow. This time around I will get married for the right reasons and not because I got pregnant, but because this is the one that will really last for the rest of my life."

Martin, who is now the executive chef of Sofra at the Fort Strip, has this to say: "I am at a loss for words. I'm in this position where my mind blots out thoughts pertinent to my life with Aiko back then. And as I've always said, I'd like to maintain my life in the kitchen where show biz doesn't exist. The least I could do is to be the best father I can be to Marthena."

Scheming survivor

Could it be true that Akihiro Sato requested his co-castaways Aubrey Miles, Ervic Vijandre and Solenn Heusaff to make him win "Survivor Philippines Celebrity Edition," and that he will just give them P200,000 each to reward them? Survival of the Shrewdest?

Back on track

KC Montero will be back on the airwaves in "The KC Show" starting Dec. 6 on Wave 89.1, Monday to Friday at 8-11 a.m. His co-host is Kat Alano. They both used to be VJs of MTV. I caught up with KC for a tête-à-tête:

How's your relationship with ex-wife Geneva Cruz?

Gen and I had some time to hang out with Heaven [her son with Paco Arespacochaga] recently in the States. We went to Universal Studios and had a really good time. We will always be friends. She's a wonderful person and I only wish her the best.

Do you have a significant other?


Montero

I haven't even been on a date. I just sit at home and manage my Twitter career (twitter.com/kcmontero). See, I just threw out another shameless plug. Seriously, after being in a relationship for a long time, dating is something that's really not on my mind at this time. Girls scare me.

What can we expect from your show?

Listeners can expect fun. My co-host is Kat Alano, who's like one of the boys. She will keep me on my toes. It's the first personality-based show on Wave 89.1. Talk about pressure. I want to put on an entertaining show that continues to push the envelope while keeping up with the same R&B/hip hop feel that the station is known for.

Settling down

After being through hell and back in the name of love, Rachel Alejandro is finally settling down with her fiancé, Carlos Santamaria. He is a journalist with the EFE Spanish newswire service in Bangkok.

The bride-to-be is busy getting inspired for her play, "Xanadu," to be held on December 3 to 5 at 8 p.m. at the Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium, RCBC Plaza Makati.


Singer-actors Rachel Alejandro and Piolo Pascual.

I cornered Rachel about her wedding plans. Miss Sexy Chef will soon turn into Mrs. Hot Española.

So how did Carlos propose? She said they mutually decided to get married over a couple of bottles of wine in Vietnam.

It will be a beach wedding on April 9, but they're still looking for a venue. Honeymoon will be in the Maldives.

I asked her what's the best thing she has learned from Carlos so far. "He has shown me that I can love someone so much that I would want to have a family," said Rachel. "I never wanted that, till now."

'Cure' to Maui's heart

Maui Taylor is exclusively dating a gorgeous doctor who is her childhood friend.

"Ang sarap at gaan ng feeling," she gushes, "because we know each other so well. Graduate na ako sa tumultuous relationships."

Hopefully Doc will find the permanent cure for old wounds in Maui's overworked heart.

Social networking or celebrity stalking?

KIM ATIENZA: "Some followers can be unforgiving of mistakes I make. I am not perfect but people expect me to be. Otherwise, Twitter has helped my trivia and encyclopedic skills, especially after my surgery. It also connects me psycho-spiritually—via my twoughts (thoughts I could have tweeted)—with my thousands of followers. My challenge is how to reply tactfully to negative questions that occasionally come my way."

Overheard

■ GRETCHEN Barretto exclaimed, when told about ABS-CBN's plan to do a sequel of her soap opera "Magkaribal": "But it's in 2012 … that's two years from now. The whole cast might look different by then."

■ SHARON Cuneta gave unsolicited advice to Robin Padilla whose wife Mariel Rodriguez reportedly wanted the "Sharon" tattoo on his chest removed: "I'll give Robin Salonpas and Band Aid so he can cover the tattoo."

■ PIOLO Pascual explained how he felt when Kapamilya big bosses Charo Santos and Gabby Lopez asked him to sign his coffee-table book "Piolo Revealed": "I felt overwhelmed and embarrassed. It was Ma'am Charo who gave me my first big break on 'Esperanza.'"

■ ASKED to name the top homegrown stars of ABS-CBN, network president Charo Santos quipped: "Among the boys, Piolo Pascual and John Lloyd Cruz. Among the girls, Kim Chiu and Bea Alonzo." ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

Maharlika – Opinyon

Korea's 38th Parallel: Why Pinoys should care

Twenty years ago, when I was a graduate student in the United States, I discovered a subtle kinship that draws Filipinos and Koreans together. A Korean classmate sang the opening verse of Freddie Aguilar's "Anak" in Filipino, and her husband said that in fact she had memorized the Filipino lyrics of the entire song. I felt that anybody drawn to a parent's agony set to Aguilar's plaintive melody can only be a Filipino at heart.

Little could I have imagined that a quarter century later, my own campus area would be abuzz with Korean students and Pinoy locals would begin to savor the joys of Korean cuisine. And beyond that, that Korean telenovelas would capture the imagination of millions of Filipino TV viewers. Now, a Korean pop song has even invaded the airwaves.

When we read of the recent skirmishes in the Korean peninsula, we worry about our countrymen who live there, among them, Filipino students enjoying fellowships under exchange programs of various Korean universities. We think too of the circumstance of Seoul, the south's capital city, located barely 45 kilometers away from the De-Militarized Zone, the heavily guarded demarcation between North and South Korea. We are reminded as well of the sadness of a divided country, and of those railroad tracks approaching the DMZ, ready to reconnect with the nation's other half. (The North has reciprocated, apparently, with its own tracks, but of an incompatible gauge.)

North Korea's recent shelling of Yeonpyeong, an island of South Korea, is the second skirmish this year alone. In March, Pyongyang's torpedoes sank the Cheonan, a vessel of Seoul's navy, killing 46 crew members. This takes part in the context of the North's defiance of UN efforts to curb its nuclear program. Pyongyang has had the brazenness to build a second nuclear-production plant despite the ongoing so-called Six-Party Talks on nuclear non-proliferation.

But we Filipinos have other reasons to worry. The two Koreas are an international security flashpoint in Asia, close enough to our country. The last time war broke out in Korea, we sent in Filipino soldiers to fight as part of the "enforcement action" taken by the United Nations' Security Council. North Korea's belligerence today shows that it is prepared to play the game of brinkmanship at the 38th Parallel. It will exploit to the hilt the advantage of the rogue state that wouldn't play by the rules, to be appeased eternally by the level-headed. Should hostilities escalate, it will be a war too close to home for us.



Passion For Reason

By RAUL PANGALANGAN

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Moreover, it shows a hermit dictatorship about to go berserk. Internally within North Korea's inscrutable politics, it shows the rise of the more militaristic elements over the erstwhile moderating voices in the foreign ministry. It has been linked to the failing health—and fading power—of the ailing Kim Jong-il, and the need to marshal the hawk's support for his handpicked successor, his 27-year-old son Kim Jong-un. The elder Kim had apparently bolstered the "military-first" policy and ironically, with Jong-un's anointment, he now faces the irony of having to court the very generals whose power he had so aggrandized. The armed conflict, if internally driven, becomes even more unpredictable.

But most importantly for the Philippines, it shows the decreasing leverage by China vis-à-vis Pyongyang, and likewise the increased centrality of China vis-à-vis the United States. Beijing has been Pyongyang's erstwhile main backer, and Pyongyang can very well be testing the limits of China's support and showing the US how far it can provoke war without fear of commensurate retaliation. China's call for restraint is too tepid a reprimand for its bellicose ally, but it can only underscore US dependence on China to advance its international security interests in Asia.

How America deals with China over the disputed island of Yeonpyeong in Korea will tell us much how it will deal with skirmishes over the disputed Spratlys in the South China Sea. The global community has insisted on a multilateral, multi-country forum for dealing with the recalcitrant North. But when it comes to the Spratlys, China has insisted that it be kept within the region and has resisted any role—such as that proffered recently by US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton—that the US might play. We must monitor closely how well a multilateral approach works in Korea, and see how we can import it for the Spratlys.

And finally we must care about the Korean conflict as hosts to many Koreans who have chosen to study or to make a home in our country. Many Filipinos fail to see what is beautiful about our country, but there are more than 100,000 Koreans who have chosen to live in our country, the largest Korean diaspora community in Southeast Asia and the eighth-largest in the world.

They must command our support at this anxious time, for appreciating our native land more than many of us do. Just like many Filipinos who have embarked on their own diaspora, they must live simultaneously in two worlds. They live physically amongst us, walking Manila's sidewalks, riding Pinoy tricycles and doing their groceries at local supermarkets. But they are, I can imagine, no different from migrant Filipinos abroad and are emotionally bound up with thoughts of home.

Wars are launched by men with power for big reasons that have little to do with the everyday needs of real human beings, but it is these human beings who must pay the price. Reading about wars, we encounter the big reasons and only belatedly see its human face.

Comments to passionforreason@gmail.com.

EDITORIAL

Unfinished business

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The watchwords to achieve justice in the case of the Maguindanao massacre are vigilance, commitment—and context. It is important, indeed it is crucial, that the media and the public continue to monitor the trial with great vigilance, which is why the Aquino administration's appeal to the Supreme Court to allow the proceedings to be televised is ultimately correct. It is based on the fundamental assumption that the massacre that claimed 58 lives and tore a hole in the nation's heart cannot be allowed to happen again, and one way to help do that is to turn the trial into a regular reminder, not only of the utter barbarity of the massacre, but also the ease with which it was perpetrated.

The pursuit of justice in a complicated case must necessarily be a dogged one, an act of perseverance, especially if untold wealth, political power, a complex web of personal, familial, clan and business relationships and the ever-present specter of violence continue to throw up roadblocks. It requires a staunch commitment from the media, the public and the government to see the trial through.

But justice has other aspects. In the case of the Maguindanao massacre, justice can only be fully served if the underlying causes that led to the horrific mass killings are addressed too. This is what we mean by context.

A list of other unfinished business might include:

The continuing use of private armies. In Maguindanao, the great wealth of the ruling family of the last decade was displayed not only through grand mansions and expensive vehicles but also through a well-equipped army of bodyguards. Many of the 196 accused in the multiple murder case and now in hiding were militiamen, protected by a legal mandate from the Arroyo administration but deployed as personal security detail of the Ampatuans.

The politicization of the security forces. A related problem exemplified by the state of affairs in Maguindanao before the last elections is the practice by local officials of coopting police or military units assigned to their areas. Indeed, the main reason journalists were asked to cover the filing of Toto Mangudadatu's certificate of candidacy for governor, despite or rather because of rampant rumors of retaliation from the Ampatuans, is the failure of the official security forces to guarantee protection.

The amassing of wealth through corruption. To date, no proof has been offered to show that the ruling family of Maguindanao in the first decade of the 21st century created or generated new wealth in the province. Instead, people in the province whisper that government funds were treated as the sole source of wealth. There must be a detailed and credible audit of the provincial government's annual budget, as well as that of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao during the term of Gov. Zaldy Ampatuan. Justice demands that every single centavo must be accounted for.

10 things that make PH ugly

The Department of Tourism has taken a step back in its promotional campaign in order to do more creative thinking, after its new logo and slogan bloopers received a rain of heckles and even the President's disapproval. Indeed, how could you sell Philippine tourism with an unoriginal-looking logo and a catchphrase that only Filipinos would understand? As in, "Ano raw?"

But enough with the heckling. The late, unlamented logo that bore close similarity to Poland's, and the "Pilipinas, kay ganda" (Philippines, how beautiful) that netizens warned could lead to porno sites have both been dumped.

Now there is a rush of ideas on how best to sell the Philippines to the world through words and images. Many people still like the old "Wow! Philippines" campaign come-on that became popular during the watch of Richard Gordon as tourism secretary. His successor, Ace Durano, did not change it because it must have worked. If ain't broke, why change it?



Human Face

By MA. CERES P. DOYO

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

But I think the "Wow" has to be clearly spelled out as "world of wonders" which this country is. A sweeping "kay ganda" is not totally correct because of this country's share of man-made ugliness (more on this later) that is evident as soon as one steps out of the international airport. "World of wonders" is more inclusive and could mean many things that don't necessarily fall under "beautiful": sun, sea and sky, music, food, art, nature, hospitality, spiritual healers, state-of-the-art medical facilities, religious sites, historical places, fiestas, etc. Wondrous is more like it. Even our garbage dumps have drawn special types of visitors, the so-called civil society "exposurists" and parachuting journalists. But that is another story.

I liked "Fiesta Islands," which was the come-on during Mina Gabor's stint at the DOT. It conjured images of endless merrymaking, azure skies, azure seas and islands gleaming in the sun. It had a mystifying feel and, just now, I remember writing a column piece titled "Islands". The problem with "Fiesta Islands" is that tourists might not always find fiestas, which are held mostly in the summer, and, because of climate change, they might find flash floods instead.

Tourism websites vie with one another in cyberspace. The first one I looked up was Poland's which is highlighting the 200th birth anniversary of composer Frederic Chopin. You can even listen to some études. No, they are not capitalizing on Pope John Paul II's popularity alone, so we shouldn't be looking at Manny Pacquiao to do it all.

Spain still has its "Espana" logo done in the style of famous painter Joan Miró. I have a T-shirt with that design. Malaysia still uses "Malaysia, truly Asia" and I liked the song that went with the first version. There is "Incredible India" and "Amazing Thailand." Iceland (which I dream of visiting) uses the catch words "pure, natural, unspoiled" and Peru (of Machu Picchu fame) uses "Live the legend." Sikkim promotes itself as "the land of mystic splendor" and the Maldives as the "sunny side of life". There is "Definitely Dubai" and "Ultimate Italy." These past weeks, one cable channel has been showing the "Enjoy Jakarta" ad without let-up, and I can't take it anymore!

With the DOT "kay ganda" catch phrase out of the way, it behooves us to point out what are not "kay ganda". These are the sights, sounds and smells which could easily be sensed and considered ugly but to which solution could immediately be found, if there is a will. We're not tackling the more deep-rooted cultural faults and character flaws of Filipinos, but the tangibles that are obvious to the senses and which, come to think of it, may have its roots in our very selves, our attitudes, our selfishness. These are the ones that tourists would right away experience and be repulsed by. I asked around and here are some for starters (you may add your own):

1. Billboards from hell, the scourge of ad tarps: In just less than a decade, the urban landscape has been "uglified" by these gigantic outdoor ads that have defied regulation. Many times they have brought death and injury to people and destruction to property. Who would like to be in a place like that?

2. Garbage, garbage, garbage on the streets, in the creeks, rivers, seas and shorelines: Ugly, smelly and unsanitary, they have been a big cause of pollution, flooding, disease. Year in and year out we blame garbage for our flooding woes but…

3. "Spaghetti" cables: Look up and see snarled power and phone cables looking like cobwebs hanging on the Philippine sky. They're not only ugly, they're also dangerous when they became too heavy and fall because of their sheer weight.

4. Sticky matter left behind by spitters and nosepickers: Footbridges, overpasses, sidewalks, churchyards, markets and waiting sheds have lots of these shimmering blobs.

5. Buildings in a state of disrepair or with ugly architecture: Metro Manila has lots of these unsightly neglected structures that should be condemned and demolished. Many cities in the world have that certain look and feel that the design of their buildings, homes and other structures provide. We have not evolved our own look.

6. Potholes galore, bad roads.

7. Dirty toilets.

8. Untrimmed trees, neglected public parks and gardens.

9. Traffic and too many unregulated public vehicles, plus the noise and pollution they make.

10. Extreme poverty: This is not to say that the poor and homeless are ugly. It is poverty that is deathly ugly. Countless Filipinos are mired in it because...

Send feedback to cerespd@gmail.com or www.ceresdoyo.com

Maharlika – Samu't Sari



NEW GRADUATE
Sgt. Kelvin Matagolai Cepeda (fifth from right, standing) poses with other members of the graduating class of the Demon Academy at Camp Taji in Iraq, on Nov. 20. The brigade started the academy in order to develop future noncommissioned officers. Cepeda was promoted to sergeant on Nov. 1, 2010.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



SERVICE LEARNING
Selected cadets in the Tinian JROTC program participated in a service learning project Thanksgiving Day with kindergarten and first graders that was held on Nov. 18, 2010, at the Tinian Elementary School. The activities included pilgrim hat making, coloring pages, dancing, and pin-the-tail-on-the-turkey. This event allowed the cadets to gain communication, leadership skills, teamwork, and interaction with little kids.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



PROCLAMATION SIGNING
Department of Public Safety Commissioner Santiago Tudela and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos pose with over 40 officers at the conference room of the Office of the Governor after Inos signed on Nov. 23, 2010, a proclamation designating December as Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month.
FERDIE DE LA TORRE



SWEARING IN
Former Customs director Joe Mafnas, the newly appointed member of the Saipan Higher Educational Financial Assistance, is sworn into office by Saipan Mayor Donald Flores at the Legislature amid the presence of lawmakers and family members. Mafnas is now the new SHEFA board chair.
MARK RABAGO



JLAB LEVEL 1 ONLINE COMPETITION
Tinian JROTC's Academic and Leadership team participated in the online JLAB competition on Nov. 11, 2010. Team members of the academic team: Nikkie Ayuyu, Junieva Villarin, Rikkie Farrell, Thomelane Mendiola, and alternate Noelanie Santos. Team members of the Leadership team: Marquina Hofschneider, Richeena Farrell, Thealanie Monkeya, and Mary Hocog. This competition determined whether they made it or not to level 2. Both teams did a terrific job, but only the leadership team exceeded to level 2.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



TREE LIGHTING
Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and first lady Josie Fitial smile for the cameras after switching on the holiday lights during the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony last Nov. 26 at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center parking lot.
CLARISSA V. DAVID



EXPERT PRESENTATION
Dr. Carlyle Corbin, left, a United Nations expert on political self-determination, makes a presentation before 12 lawmakers in the House chamber on Capital Hill Thursday afternoon. At right is former Guam senator Dr. Hope Cristobal. Corbin said that it is always good for the CNMI, or any other insular area, to assess its political status periodically to take into consideration recent developments.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



CAREER EXPLORATION
Students join members of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce during the group's regular membership meeting at the Saipan World Resort on Dec. 1, 2010. The students participated in the Chamber's Student Career Exploration Day.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT
Advanced happy birthday greetings to the greatest wife, mother, and grandmother, Patricia Angui Reyes, who will be celebrating her special day on Sunday, Dec. 5, 2010. Wishing you a day as sunny as your smile, as warm as your heart—a day as wonderful as you are. Loving you always, Louie, the kids and the lil rugrats!
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Birthday greetings to Tinian resident U.S. Air Force Capt. Adrian Anthony R. Evangelista, who celebrated another year of accomplishments and a promising future on Dec. 3! Greetings come from the family.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Belated greetings to 11-month-old Kayven Xane King Cruz. We are blessed to have you in our lives and we love you so very, very much. Love, mommy and daddy.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Youngstyle

Congress sends child nutrition bill to Obama

By MARY CLARE JALONICK
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP)—More children would eat lunches and dinners at school under legislation passed Thursday by the House and sent to the president, part of first lady Michelle Obama's campaign to end childhood hunger and fight childhood obesity.

The $4.5 billion bill approved by the House 264-157 would also try to cut down on greasy foods and extra calories by giving the government power to decide what kinds of foods may be sold in vending machines and lunch lines. The bill could even limit frequent school bake sales and fundraisers that give kids extra chances to eat brownies and pizza.



AP

A student at Fairmeadow Elementary School pays for lunch of fruits and vegetables during a school lunch program in Palo Alto, Calif., Thursday, Dec. 2, 2010.

The first lady said in a statement after the vote that she was "thrilled" about House passage. She called the bill "a groundbreaking piece of bipartisan legislation that will significantly improve the quality of meals that children receive at school."

Republicans said the bill is too expensive and an example of government overreach. Even former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin has weighed in, bringing cookies to a speech at a Pennsylvania school last month and calling efforts to limit junk food in schools a "nanny state run amok."

Democrats said the legislation is needed to stem rising health care costs due to expanding American waistlines and to feed hungry children in tough economic times.

The new nutrition standards would be written by the Agriculture Department, which would decide which kinds of foods may be sold and what ingredients can be used on school lunch lines and in vending machines.

The new standards would likely keep popular foods like hamburgers and pizza in school cafeterias but make them healthier, using leaner meat or whole wheat crust, for example. Vending machines could be stocked with less candy and fewer high-calorie drinks.

Bake sales and other school sponsored fundraisers that sell unhealthy foods could be limited under the legislation, which only allows them if they are infrequent. The Agriculture Department would determine how often they could be held. Public health advocates pushed for the language, saying they are concerned about daily or weekly fundraisers that allow children to substitute junk food for a healthier meal.

The bill would increase eligibility and accessibility for school lunches by using Medicaid and census data and provide money to serve more than 20 million additional after-school meals annually in all 50 states. Most states now only serve after-school snacks.

The legislation would increase the amount of money schools are reimbursed for free lunches by 6 cents a meal, a priority for schools that say they don't have enough money to serve the meals.

Some public school organizations have criticized the bill, saying they are concerned it will set new requirements without providing enough money to carry them out.

"This will just add a new burden for schools to pay for another unfunded mandate at a time when there are critical budget shortfalls," said Anne L. Bryant, executive director of the National School Boards Association.

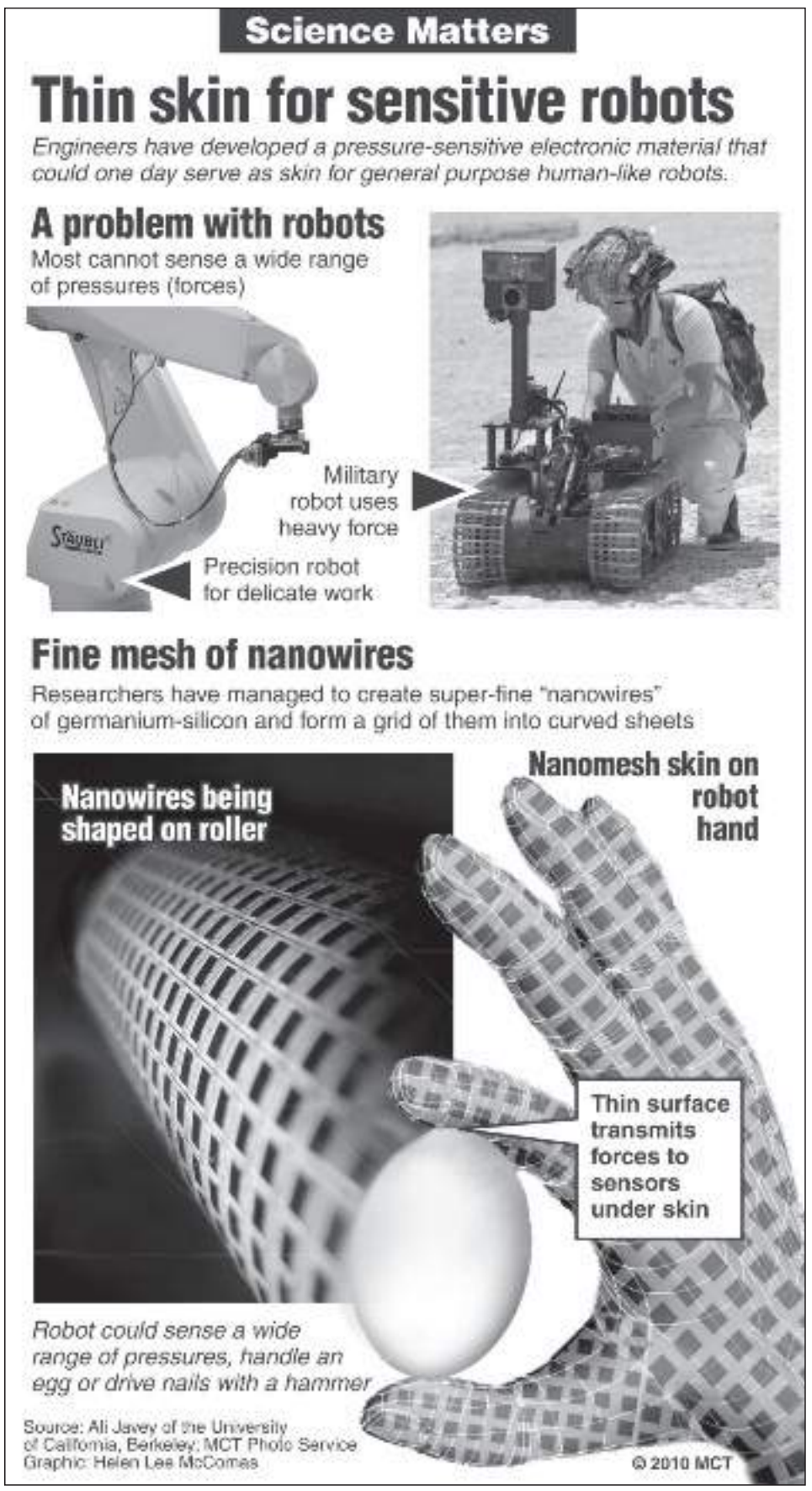
The Senate passed the legislation in August. Republicans attempted to send the bill back to the Senate on Wednesday—instead of straight to President Barack Obama—by using a procedural maneuver to try and amend it with language that would require background checks for child care workers.

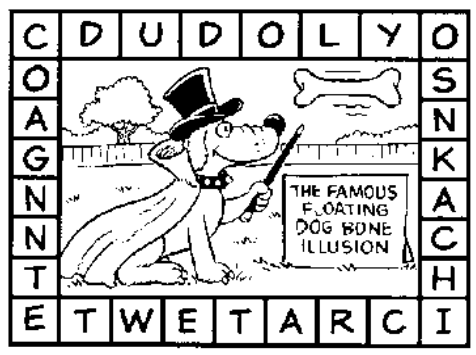
Democrats said the amendment was an attempt to kill the bill in the last few weeks of the congressional session because there would be no time for the Senate to pass it again and send it back to the House. They avoided the Senate detour and gave members of their party political cover by passing the background checks in a separate bill Thursday.

The child nutrition bill stalled in September when some liberal Democrats opposed it because it is partially paid for with $2.2 billion in future dollars for food stamps. But those Democrats dropped their opposition after Republicans made large gains in the November elections and the White House promised to find a way to restore the money.

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said the measure gives USDA the chance to make significant changes to school lunch programs for the first time in more than 30 years.

"Our national security, economic competitiveness and health and wellness of our children will improve as a result of the action Congress took today," Vilsack said.





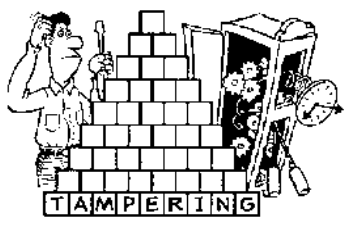
HIDDEN IN THE ABOVE FRAME is a famous old saying. You can find it by reading every other letter as you go around the frame counterclockwise. The trick is finding the right first letter.

Answer: Start ng w th the "Y" in the top rai. "You can't teach an old dog new tricks."

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

THE PYRAMID OF WORD POWER!



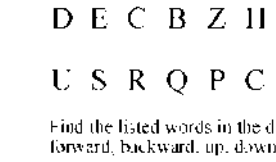
Illustrated by David Coulson

You have three minutes to unlock the secrets of Word Power! Starting with the given word TAMPERING, at the bottom of our pyramid, try dropping one letter at a time as you work your way up, so that the remaining letters, at each level, spell out a new word. The following helpful hints are in ascending order, beginning with TAMPERING.

1. To tinker with foolishly.
2. To travel on foot; hike.
3. An itinerant worker.
4. Blank space on letter.
5. Fruit of cereal grass.
6. Called on the phone.
7. A long-nosed fish.
8. Egyptian sun god.
9. Chess piece abbreviation.

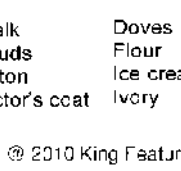
Answers: 1. Tarpering. 2. Tramping. 3. Migrant. 4. Margin. 5. Grain. 6. Rang. 7. Gar. 8. Ra. 9. R (rook)

A CROWD OF THREES! In this time test you have one minute in which to find the answer.



Answer: With a series of mathematical operations, you solve the multiplication and division operations first, left to right, and then the addition and subtracting operations. Thus: 3 + (3 x 3) - (3 / 3) - 3 = 3 + 9 - 1 - 3 = 8.

CHAIN REACTION! Take the seven letters printed below our diagram and place them in the circles so that eight four-letter words can be read, top to bottom, along the connecting lines. All the words will begin with the letter in the top circle.



Answers: Top to bottom, left to right: Tile, till, tric, tris, tent, tens, tess, teen.

Fleas aren't only cause of itching

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: My Pom/Pekingese mix, "Debbie," really scratches and bites at her fur a lot, but when I inspect her, there are no fleas that I can see—nor even the flea "dust" you described in a previous column. I bathe her regularly, but it doesn't seem to help. My husband thinks she scratches just to spite us. Do you have a solution?—Dottie K., Irving, N.Y.

DEAR DOTTIE: Debbie's not scratching to "spite" you; she's scratching because she itches. The cause of her itch doesn't have to be fleas. She may have allergies or dry skin.

Scratching and biting at areas that are bothering her can make the problem worse, not better, especially in the case of dry skin (or even a skin disease that's developing, unseen).

The first thing I would recommend is to stop bathing her so frequently, at least for a while. When you do bathe her, use a bath soap specifically made for dogs, and ideally for dogs with sensitive skin. The soap should be unscented—perfumes can cause all sorts of misery for a dog with dry skin.

You also should take Debbie to the veterinarian and have her checked out not just for fleas, but any possible allergic reaction, dry skin or skin disease.

Foods can be a culprit in skin problems caused by allergies. It's sometimes hard to pinpoint exactly which food is causing Debbie's problem, but your vet can provide information on how to narrow down the possibilities so you can adjust her diet accordingly.

■ ■ ■

Looking for more pet advice and information? Check out pawscorner.com online! Send your pet questions and tips to ask@pawscorner.com, or write to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

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Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

■ It was 20th-century British author and Anglican priest William Ralph Inge who made the following sage observation: "Events in the past may be roughly divided into those which probably never happened and those which do not matter."

■ Consider your age, then consider the following tidbit: In the 1700s, the average human lifespan was about 30 years. Sobering thought, isn't it?

■ According to a survey conducted by the Pew Research Center, the home appliances Americans consider to be the most essential are clothes washers and dryers, followed by air conditioners. Obviously, the majority of the survey's respondents weren't residents of Florida or Texas.

■ Historians report that Napoleon Bonaparte, when he wasn't busy conquering, enjoyed ice skating.

■ If you're frightened of bugs, you might not want to know the following tidbit: There are 10 quintillion insects alive on the planet.

■ A study published in 2008 showed that the price of a pain medication had an effect on its efficacy. In the study people were given placebo pills, some at the regular price and some at a discounted price. Those who paid full price for the medication reported more relief than those who paid less.

■ Half of all cookies baked in the United States are of the chocolate-chip variety.

■ If you're planning to be in the San Francisco area in June, you might want to plan a stop in the nearby town of Petaluma for the Sonoma-Marin Fair. This is where the competition to determine the world's ugliest dog is held every year. In addition to earning bragging rights, the owner of the winning pooch is awarded a prize of $1,000.

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "The most incomprehensible thing about the world is that it is at all comprehensible."—Albert Einstein

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MAGIC MAZE ●

SNOW WHITE

J M J H E B Y V T Q O L I G N
R D B Y W S T R P M S K I F W
D A P B Y W D U S Q O W M M O
K I G E F D B U Z X N W A U G
S Q O U E N F L O U R L E N G
J M A R S H M A L L O W R O N
H F D E C K S A Y Y C W C T I
V T V S Q L P N L R P K E T D
I O H F T A O C S R O T C O D
D E C B Z H Y O W V P V I C E
U S R Q P C N M W L K L I M W

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and dragonally.

Chalk	Doves	Marshmallow	Swan
Clouds	Flour	Milk	Wedding gown
Cotton	Ice cream	Popcorn	Wool
Doctor's coat	Ivory	Sheep	

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★

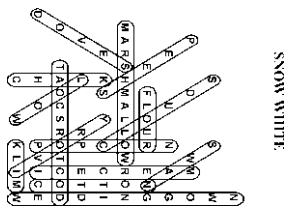
★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	+		÷		2
x		–		+	
	–		x		6
÷		x		x	
	x		–		18
2		10		22	

1 2 4 5 5 6 7 8 9

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MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



GO FIGURE ANSWER

1	+	9	÷	5	2
x		–		+	
8	–	7	x	6	6
÷		x		x	
4	x	5	–	2	18
7		10		22	

Apple-cinnamon dough makes aromatic gifts

Do you want to make some dough with the kids this weekend? Put away the eggs, the flour and the butter, because this aromatic dough requires only two ingredients in very odd proportion—equal parts applesauce and cinnamon. Sound delicious?

You definitely won't want to eat this concoction, but you can enjoy its delicious scent as cut-outs for tree ornaments, gift tags and even jewelry for holiday gifts. Welcome to Apple Cinnamon Dough!

Here's what you'll need for a small batch of dough to start:

■ 1/2 cup ground cinnamon (I bought in bulk for less than a dollar)

■ 1/2 cup commercial applesauce (homemade is too runny)

Here's the fun:

Mix together equal parts cinnamon and commercially made applesauce. If it gets a bit sticky, add more cinnamon. If it's too stiff, try more applesauce.

Scoop onto a piece of waxed paper, place another sheet on top and roll it out until it's almost 1/2 inch thick. Stop and decide what "charms" for jewelry or ornament shapes you would like to create—stars, hearts, pine trees, alphabet letters, etc. Use cookie cutters you have, or make your own templates by cutting out pieces of cardboard from a cereal box in the desired shapes. Place on top of the dough and trim away the dough around the pattern.

Use a drinking straw to poke a hole in shapes for threading later onto ribbon or string. Use a toothpick and carve details, such as scales on a fish or a smile on a crescent moon.

When complete, place them on a cooling rack and allow them to air-dry for about 24 hours or more until they are nice and hard. Or, an adult may set them on a baking sheet and place in a 200 F oven for about two hours or until hard.



Time to decorate! Using acrylic craft paints in squeeze bottles, create patterns of any kind on your shapes. Dry.

Fashion a pin or brooch by gluing a clasp on the back, or make a necklace by stringing together a few alphabet-letter shapes or smaller charms. Tie a string through the hole for ornaments. For gift decorations, make shapes of objects that are a clue to what is inside the package. For example, if you are giving Uncle Jim a windbreaker for sailing, make a sailboat shape. Tie it to the ribbon on the gift, and it will be like giving two presents in one.

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning series "Donna's Day" is airing on public television nationwide. To find more of her creative family recipes and activities, visit www.donnasday.com and link to the NEW Donna's Day Facebook fan page. Her latest book is "Donna Erickson's Fabulous Funstuff for Families."

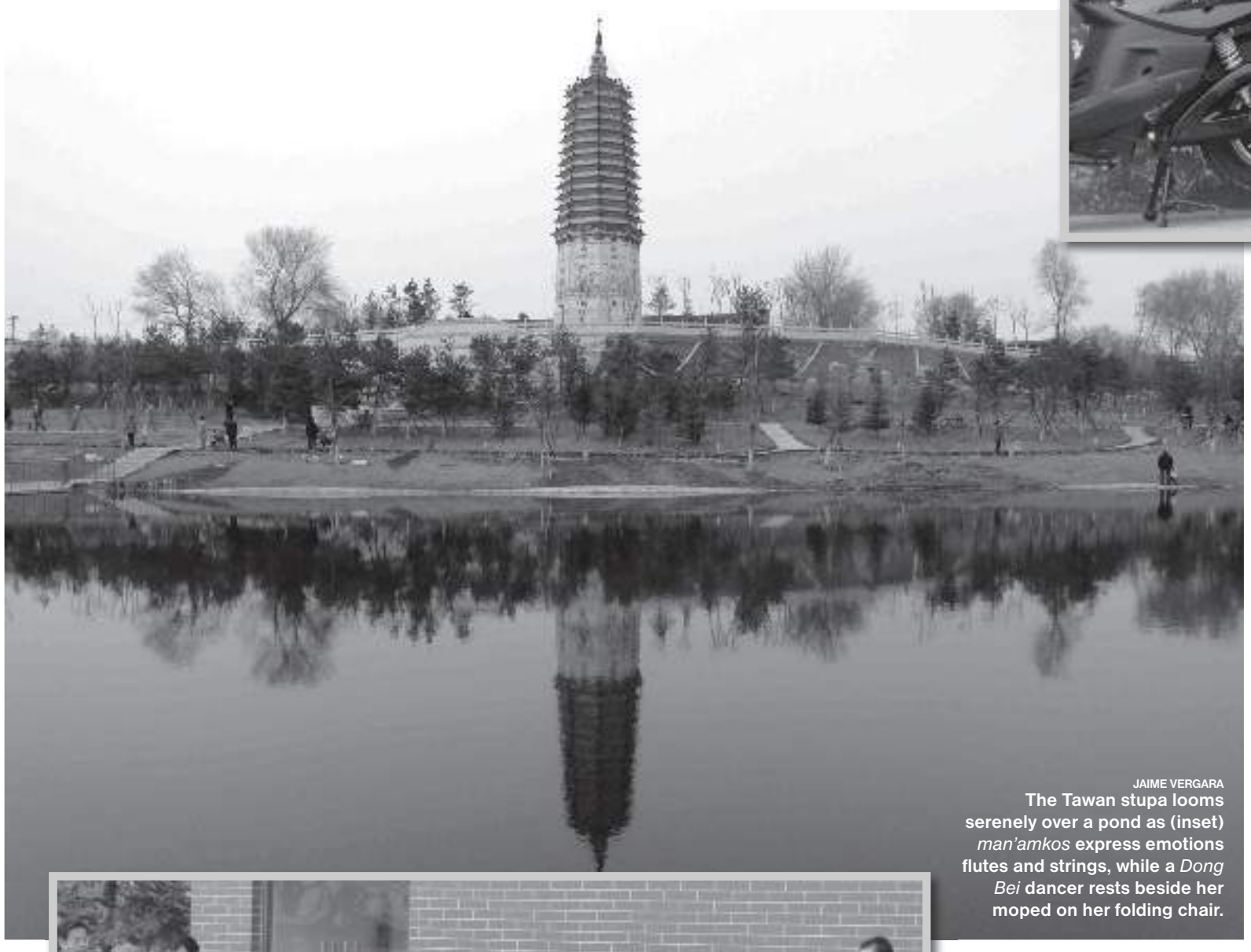
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Life & Style

DONG BEI TREK 13

Piety where the East is Red





JAIME VERGARA

The Tawan stupa looms serenely over a pond as (inset) *man'amkos* express emotions flutes and strings, while a *Dong Bei* dancer rests beside her moped on her folding chair.



By JAIME VERGARA
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

In an earlier report, we recounted our encounter with a Christian Church in downtown Yanji, a rather unexpected sight in the middle of this so-called godless mindscape. Of course, in the long history of demonizing Mao's Gongchangdang (CPC) rule, we have all embraced stereotyped images of the red star "yellow menace."

The history of Taoist and Confucian traditions, joined by the appropriation of Buddhism from across the Tibetan highlands, to the marauding hordes of Mongol Muslims, and the encroachment of the messianic cross and sword, cannot be blotted out of the Chinese psyche in a couple of generations.

The Marxian dictum that "religion is the opiate of the people," Mao notwithstanding, will not apply much because the Sino mind is already buffeted by cultural reliance on the whims of fate and the caprices of fortune, practical in its manipulation of ancestral spirits and geomancy, reliant on feng shui. Thus, the culture of the Han and other ethnic minorities teem with adored icons of spirit to bring wealth and prosperity to the faithful.

This is beyond superstition like the one observed by the sisterhood of my acquaintance who prays for the remission of cancer cells, as if the contradiction is the presence of wild tissues rather than the unwillingness to accept them. Finitude is our dis-ease, not germs or invasive cells. Some even go so far as to claim that the success of Manny Pacquiao, a decent and religious man, comes from the benevolent machinations of Providence.

Eboo Patel, in his book Acts of Faith: The Story of an American Muslim, says the division in the world today is between the Religious Totalitarians and the Religious Pluriformists within all faith traditions. There are those in all traditions who think themselves superior to others, and despise those who believe differently, or want to embrace diversity of faith and practice, seek peace, and build community.

Europe's rationalism and literalism doomed the cultic nature of its religious practices, and its language's insistence of correspondence between description and reality, seeking certitude of truth over the richness of imagination, leaves the majesty of the Mass a relic best consigned to a museum than as a metaphorical telling of a live story.

The Chinese language relies more on the nuance rather than precision, avoiding the pitfalls of literalism, and therefore, has the possibility of being accommodating to divergent views. The banning of the practices of the Falun Gong/Dafa is not an objection over a religious practice as it is a political phobia over popular movements that may threaten the stability of the State. The CPC knows from whence it politicizes; it's been there before, and the contradiction it encountered never resulted in a pretty picture.

Hegel, Marx and Mao's contradictional thinking left social science of the Western mind ever mindful of 'those who will do us harm," suspicious of the stranger and the unknown, creating an orthodoxy of goodness against the insidious encroachment of evil. Synthesis results from the conflict of thesis and antithesis, and when the process is coerced, war becomes a permanent budgetary expenditure.

Harvard Business School economics guru Michael Porter is a leading authority in company strategy and the competitiveness of nations and regions. The methodology of rewards and punishments is well understood in our schools. Our young are taught to best each other in all forms of competition in and outside the classroom. Looking after No. 1 remains the virtue promoted in editorial and opinion pages. The upside is the affirmation of selfhood; the downside is the putting down, if not demonizing, of the other, perceived as opponent. We see this in full play in politics where contenders act more like gladiators out to banish foes, rather than statespersons out to perform a citizenship function.

China in its present development reflects a pluralistic approach to piety, its fundamental perspective of the yin-yang balances and harmonizes different forces. "Compare and contrast" is the language of essay tests in Western schools; complementation and correlation is the architectural motif of the East.

Man'amko amuse themselves with flutes and strings at one of Shenyang's public parks, where normally discordant cords that swing wildly between two octaves accompanied by a shrill voice, unfamiliar to the concert ear accustomed to symphonic melodies, is not uncommon but are nevertheless blended together in harmony by beat and correlation. On the other side of the park are bedecked dancers in their fineries, moving on the two-step square of the waltz and other ballroom dances. The Dong Bei colorful fan dancers with their grassland shuffles, stomp in the shadows of the octagonal 13-story Tawan stupa (pagota) looming steadfastly on the hill reflected by the pond of serene waters.

It is the politicized Christian, Muslim, and Buddhist totalitarians that wreak havoc on the pious practices of the East. Unfortunately, as Patel documents in his experience with Islam, and we attest with ours within Christendom, the narrow minds have been better organized and thoroughly intentional in the pedagogy of the young to become zealous and fanatical in the calcified practices of their faith, that pluriformists must now take heed of SJ paleontologist Chardin's admonition: The task before us now, if we will not perish, is to shake off our ancient prejudices and rebuild the earth.

Authentic piety in China, as it is elsewhere, is nothing more than humanity's celebration of the profundity and greatness of existence.

National Board of Review lauds 'Social Network'

NEW YORK (AP)—The National Board of Review, widely considered a harbinger of the Academy Awards, has chosen "The Social Network" as the best film of the year.

The NBR lavished a total of four awards on the film, naming David Fincher best director, Aaron Sorkin's script best adapted screenplay and Jesse Eisenberg best actor. Eisenberg plays Facebook creator Mark Zuckerberg in the film, which has won critical praise and earned more than $180 million worldwide at the box office.

In the past three years, the National Board of Review winner has twice gone on to win best picture at the Oscars: "No Country for Old Men" in 2007 and "Slumdog Millionaire" in 2008. Last year's winner was "Up in the Air."

The National Board of Review, a group of film historians, students and educators founded in 1909, is one of the first notable groups to announce its picks for the year, beginning in earnest the long drumbeat of critics groups and guilds that will name their own choices ahead of the Oscars on Feb. 27. Its robust backing of "The Social Network" will only add to the movie's reputation as an awards front-runner.



AP

In this publicity image released by Columbia Pictures, Jesse Eisenberg, left, and Joseph Mazzello are shown in a scene from "The Social Network."

NBR President Annie Schulhof said she expects "The Social Network" will "stand up over time and appeal to many generations."

"With 'The Social Network' you had very strong elements that were very much appreciated: the direction, the writing, the acting, its great storytelling," Schulhof said. "That spoke to the very diverse landscape of the National Board of Review."

Lesley Manville was named best actress for her performance as a desperate middle-aged secretary in "Another Year," Mike Leigh's British drama about friendship and aging.

Best supporting actor went to Christian Bale, who plays Dicky Eklund, the junkie former boxer and older brother to Mickey Ward (Mark Wahlberg) in David O. Russell's "The Fighter." Jacki Weaver won best supporting actress for her role as the matriarch of a blue-collar crime family in the Australian drama "Animal Kingdom."

Ben Affleck's Boston crime drama "The Town"—which features Affleck, Rebecca Hall, Jeremy Renner and Jon Hamm—was chosen for best ensemble cast.

Shut out entirely was "The King's Speech," the drama about the struggles of King George VI (Colin Firth) with stuttering. It has been seen by Oscar prognosticators as the movie most likely to contest "The Social Network" for top honors. (The group did list "The King's Speech" as one of the top 10 films of the year.)

"Toy Story 3," Pixar's third installment in its beloved franchise, won best animated feature. Best documentary went to the "Waiting for 'Superman,'" which details the U.S. education system and puts hope in charter schools. Best foreign language film went to "Of Gods and Men," the French drama about Cistercian monks fighting fundamentalism.

One of the group's most surprising choices was picking Chris Sparling's "Buried" script for best original screenplay. The film, an exercise in minimalism, stars Ryan Reynolds as a contract worker in Iraq taken hostage and buried alive in a coffin—the cramped setting of the entire movie.

Sofia Coppola was chosen for a special filmmaking achievement award for writing, directing and producing "Somewhere," her lyrical depiction of a Hollywood actor (Stephen Dorff) questioning his lifestyle during a visit from his young daughter (Elle Fanning).

Bing Crosby's widow recovering after traffic crash

RENO, Nev. (AP)—Bing Crosby's widow, Kathryn Crosby, is recovering after being flown to a hospital with major injuries following a deadly traffic crash last month in the Sierra Nevada.

Kathryn Crosby, 77, was hurt and her husband, Maurice William Sullivan, 85, was killed in the Nov. 4 single-vehicle wreck on U.S. 50 east of Placerville, Calif., California Highway Patrol spokesman Dan Stark said Thursday.

Kathryn Crosby, who has homes in Genoa and Hillsborough, Calif., was flown to Renown Regional Medical Center in Reno.



Crosby

Hospital spokesman Dan Davis said Thursday the former actress is not currently listed as a patient.

"This can mean either this patient is no longer here or they have chosen to keep their protected health information private and do not want it released," he said.

Sullivan was westbound when his vehicle left the roadway, struck a large boulder and rolled many times, ejecting him, Start said. The cause of the crash has not been determined, and an investigation continues.

"We may do some follow-up with her (Kathryn Crosby) to determine the events that led up to the accident," Stark said, adding he had no details on her injuries or update on her condition.

Robert Bader, vice president of marketing and production for Bing Crosby Enterprises, said Thursday that Kathryn Crosby was "doing well" at a hospital, but he did not elaborate.

Kathryn Crosby's family did not return phone calls seeking comment.

She and the crooner, best known for "White Christmas" and the "road" movies he made with Bob Hope, were married for nearly 20 years before his 1977 death at age 74. She was his second wife.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Christine O'Donnell has book deal

NEW YORK (AP)—Christine O'Donnell has lost an election, but gained a book deal. The Delaware Republican and Tea Party favorite, defeated in last month's voting for the U.S. Senate, will offer her take on the campaign and her "frustrations" with the political process, St. Martin's Press announced Thursday. Publication is scheduled for August 2011. Backed by Sarah Palin, O'Donnell was a surprise winner in the GOP primary, but was widely ridiculed for her lack of experience and for past comments, including statements about her youthful interest in witchcraft and her opposition to masturbation.

Terminally ill author gets book deal

NEW YORK (AP)—A self-published best-seller co-authored by a terminally ill financial executive has a book deal. "The Investment Answer," written by former Lehman Brothers managing director Gordon Murray and financial adviser Dan Goldie, has been acquired by Business Plus, an imprint of Grand Central Publishing. The publisher said Thursday it will have a new edition out by Jan. 25. The "Investment Answer" became an instant hit after an article appeared last week in The New York Times. Murray has been diagnosed with brain cancer. Financial terms were not disclosed, but two publishing executives with knowledge of negotiations said bidding had reached at least $1 million.

Aretha Franklin calls her surgery a success

NEW YORK (AP)—Aretha Franklin says her surgery was "highly successful" and thanks well-wishers for their prayers. In a statement released Thursday to The Associated Press, the Queen of Soul says: "God is still in control. I had superb doctors and nurses whom were blessed by all the prayers of the city and the country." Franklin did not say what she was being treated for Thursday. Last month, the 68-year-old singer announced she was canceling all concert dates and personal appearances through May on the orders of her doctors.

"Walker, Texas Ranger" now Norris, Texas Ranger

GARLAND, Texas (AP)—There's only one man tough enough to take down "Walker, Texas Ranger." And that's Chuck Norris, Texas Ranger. The actor and martial-arts expert was named an honorary member of the elite Texas law enforcement force Thursday by Texas Gov. Rick Perry, a nod to the television character that enshrined Norris as the ultimate tough guy. The Republican governor bestowed the rare honor on the 70-year-old action hero and executive director of "Walker, Texas Ranger" in a room packed with family, friends and real Texas Rangers at a state Department of Public Safety office in the Dallas suburb of Garland. "People may whisper about his super powers, but the greatest power of Chuck Norris is his integrity," the governor said. The television show, in which Norris played karate-kicking lawman Cordell Walker, ran on CBS from 1993 to 2001. But odes to his indestructible toughness live on thanks to one-liners—"Chuck Norris doesn't do pushups. He pushes the earth down"—splashed across the Internet.

Disappointed daughter wants alcoholic dad out of her life

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I'm 15, and my parents have fought constantly for years. Dad is an alcoholic. I guess you could say I have kind of given up on him. I'm involved in many sports, but rarely does he show up to support me, unlike my mom who is there at every game.

Dad has now left us. He still calls Mom just about every day, and he stops by the house to "check up" on things about three times a week.

Mom forced me to send him a "Happy Birthday" text. She wants me to start talking to him again and to build a relationship with him, but I think he has missed out on too much of my life already. (He even missed my first prom!) I don't feel I need him in my life, or that he deserves me in his. What should I do?

LET DOWN BY DAD IN KANSAS

DEAR LET DOWN: Because you are close to your mother, you need to have her explain to you why she feels it is important for you to include your father in your life. If he is trying to quit drinking, she may have good reasons for wanting you to.

While I understand and sympathize with the fact that your father has disappointed you and that you are angry about it, carrying that kind of anger can be more destructive to you than it is to him. That's why it could be helpful to you to check out a support group called Alateen. It was started especially to help young people whose lives have been affected by the compulsive drinking of a family member or a friend. It offers a booklet titled "Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism 2011," which can be read on the Al-Anon website at www.Al-AnonFamilyGroups.org. If you would like to order a postage-paid free copy, direct your request to wso@Al-AnonFamilyGroups.org, or mail a request to Al-Anon Family Groups, 1600 Corporate Landing Parkway, Virginia Beach, VA 23454-5617.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have been dating "Harper" for two months. He now involves me in his family dinners and events on a weekly basis. I feel weird going to family functions that include his mom, dad, brother, sister, and their spouses and kids. Sometimes even extended family members and friends attend.

Harper loves including me, but it's overwhelming because it feels too soon to spend so much time with them. My anxiety has me in a panic during nearly every visit. I'm having a hard time saying no because it's all so normal for Harper. I dread going to his family's for dinner for fear that it will turn into "card night."

Harper's ex-girlfriend was fine with being included in everything. I feel like I'm stepping into her shoes, and I don't like how it feels. Harper never forces me to go, but I have to find a way to tell him it's not necessary for me to accompany him every week. I don't want to offend him or his family. Help!

TOO MUCH, TOO SOON

DEAR TOO MUCH, TOO SOON: You need to recognize that Harper is extremely close to his family and that his idea of a good time is seeing and interacting with them. If you continue to date him, you will have to accept that his family—including extended family, friends and card nights—will be a large part of the package.

Many women might welcome being wrapped in the embrace of a large, warm family, but because you feel otherwise, it's time to level with him and tell him that you're finding this overwhelming.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby—Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

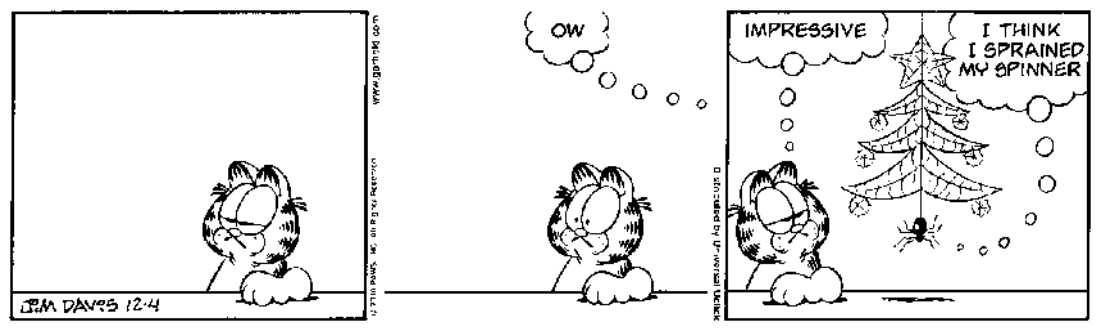
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



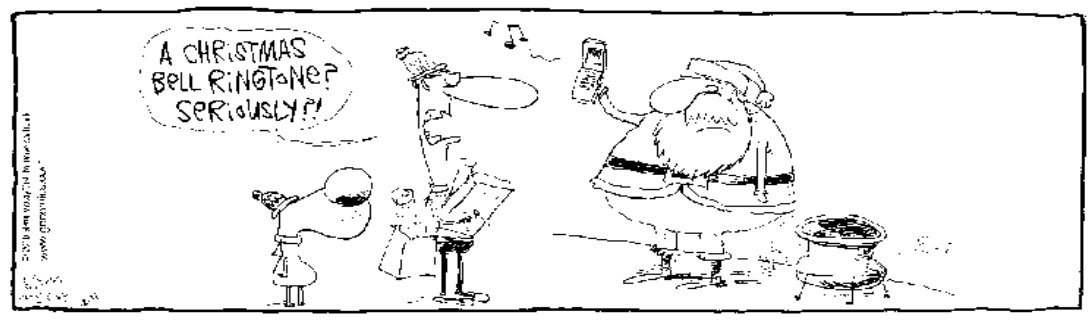
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

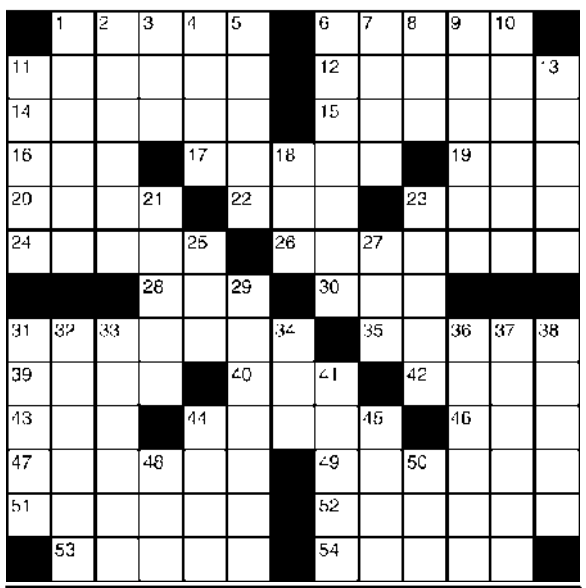
ACROSS
1 Pinochle plays
6 "Silence of the —"
11 Cash in
12 Harm
14 Seek a bargain
15 Tee-hee
16 Compass dir.
17 Wood-shop machine
19 Cake maker's shortcut
20 Settled down
22 Same old same-old
23 Chantilly, e.g.
24 Church council
26 Woody Allen movie
28 Bush league?
30 Fool
31 Layer
35 Confuse
39 Dregs
40 High-arc sho:
42 NYC transp. initials
43 Literary collection
44 "The Cosby Show" mom
46 Last letter
47 Word-finding game
49 Multitask, maybe
51 Answer angrily
52 Heinz Holliger, e.g.
53 Hemingway's "The — of Kilimanjaro"
54 Grammarian's concern

DOWN
1 As a villain would
2 Enter cautiously
3 Journey segment
4 Computer brand
5 Daub
6 — a feather
7 Grenoble girlfriend
8 Est. EPA hwy. —
9 Illicit intermediary
10 Quartz material
11 Ostriches' kin
13 Reed and Harrison
18 Three-man vessel?
21 Frat party wear
23 Boltonniere's place
25 Speck
27 Apprehend
29 Young hens
31 Thick chunks
32 Mortises' mates
33 Carter's successor
34 Bygone bird
36 Whirling firework
37 Ultimatum ending
38 Welcome
41 Common theater name
44 Talon
45 Massages
48 Mailing HQ
50 — long way

Solution time: 27 mins.

F	T	H	O	S	■	F	A	C	■	F	D	A
T	W	E	A	K	■	A	B	E	■	A	W	N
C	A	C	H	E	■	J	U	C	K	L	E	D
■	■	K	U	W	A	I	T	■	I	S	L	E
G	A	L	■	S	P	A	■	S	T	E	T	S
O	P	E	D	■	I	N	L	E	T	■	■	■
O	R	D	A	I	N	■	A	R	F	■	H	A
■	■	■	M	I	G	H	T	■	N	A	I	L
H	E	M	A	N	■	A	T	A	■	C	P	A
A	I	A	S	■	T	R	F	R	F	K	■	■
P	I	C	K	I	F	D	■	R	U	I	G	F
P	T	A	■	A	X	E	■	O	R	E	O	S
Y	E	W	■	M	T	N	■	T	O	D	D	S

Yesterday's answer 12-4



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Tyra Banks, 37; Jay-Z, 41; Marisa Tomei, 46; Jeff Bridges, 61

Happy Birthday: Sharing too much with people who have the potential to hold you back or steal your ideas will be your downfall. Allow others to do most of the talking while you gather information. Timing is critical and you stand to gain far more than you imagine. Change can be good as long as you are in control. Your numbers are 6, 18, 21, 27, 33, 40, 47

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Waiting for someone to take your ideas and put them into play is a waste of time. You have to make things happen. Taking care of business and drumming up your own interests will pay off. Present and promote what you have to offer. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Look at the possibilities of traveling, whether to spend time with family and old friends or to take a much-needed vacation. You can turn the year's end into a memorable affair by making the right choices regarding love and your professional future. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): It will be difficult to make up your mind if it regards money and how you can put it to its best use. There will be plenty of options and people who will want to help you decide, but this is something you have to do on your own. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Professional problems will cloud your vision. Don't get angry at what happened in the past. Let go and move on. Love is in the stars and spending time with someone who loves you unconditionally will lift your spirits and build your confidence. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Focus on fun and spending time with the people you find mentally and physically stimulating. Take on any challenge with gusto and face any competition with strength and courage. You can raise the bar by being a participant. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Don't fall short with regard to the needs of family, friends or your environment. Change is upon you and to ignore it will only make matters worse and cause arguments. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Do your best to get your chores out of the way so you can move on to projects or activities that suit you better. A serious attempt to develop something you've been working toward will bring you interesting feedback. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Find out exactly where you stand. This can apply not only to your personal life but also to projects you have dedicated much of your time to building. Talk to someone objective about the next step to take. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Letting too many people know what you are up to will cause conflict and opposition, ending in disaster. An argument will lead to a loss of friendship and trust, leaving you in an irreversible position that you may live to regret. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Be true to yourself. The person you connect with most on all levels will not try to sway you in any way but will, instead, support you. Change is necessary but does not have to cause anguish or upset. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You have more options than you realize to make improvements to your current situation. Emotional deception is apparent. Don't let anyone make decisions for you. Make and stick to your decision. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): You may end up in a war with someone who can do damage to your reputation. Focus more on love and shake off any negativity. Do not be goaded into something that will leave you in a vulnerable situation. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are creative and original. You are adaptable and progressive. You are dedicated and passionate regarding your beliefs.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

7			8	1			9	
		9						8
	4				2			
2						5		
9				4				3
		7						2
			1				6	
4						7		
	3			8	6			9

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 12/04

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

2	9	6	3	5	4	1	7	8
8	5	7	1	6	9	2	3	4
4	1	3	2	8	7	5	9	6
9	8	2	4	3	6	7	5	1
1	3	4	5	7	8	9	6	2
6	7	5	9	1	2	8	4	3
7	2	1	6	9	3	4	8	5
3	4	8	7	2	5	6	1	9
5	6	9	8	4	1	3	2	7

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 12/04

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

I JUST BOUGHT A BLU RAY! Solution: 8 letters

E	S	M	O	C	I	S	U	M	E	P	Y	B	E	S
E	S	N	E	C	I	L	W	V	D	T	U	R	N	E
R	F	A	F	D	O	T	I	E	I	R	A	O	W	M
E	A	T	E	A	I	H	A	L	N	W	I	E	R	A
S	C	E	D	R	C	A	A	L	D	T	E	V	R	G
A	T	N	D	R	C	U	E	R	I	L	B	P	E	C
L	O	R	A	R	Q	N	A	N	B	L	E	R	N	I
A	R	E	E	V	G	H	I	I	U	T	D	O	A	N
C	L	T	R	T	D	F	T	E	A	F	I	D	P	O
I	A	N	H	A	E	A	G	M	E	T	S	U	S	R
T	T	I	T	D	P	A	I	A	O	N	C	C	E	T
P	I	F	H	M	R	I	I	M	U	V	A	I	F	C
O	G	G	O	O	L	U	A	T	A	D	I	B	I	E
E	I	C	T	U	R	E	Y	A	L	P	I	E	L	L
H	D	S	S	E	N	T	S	U	B	O	R	O	S	E

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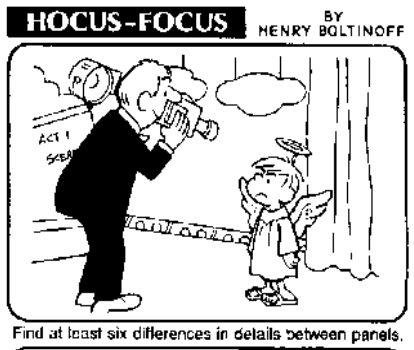
Advance, Archive, Audio, Blu, Burn, Compatible, Create, Data, Date, Digital, Disc, Drive, Electronic, Enable, Factor, Feature, Games, Group, Hardware, High Definition, Increase, Internet, Laser, Length, License, Life span, Load, Media, Motion, Movies, Music, News, Optical, Player, Product, Quality, Read, Robustness, Storage, Ultimate

Yesterday's Answer: Hand Feed

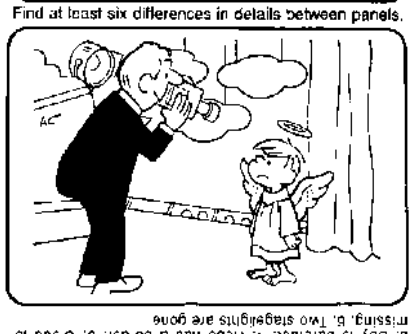
Newest THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD volumes 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31 and 32 are 15.95 each plus $5.95 shipping for the first book and $2.95 for each additional book in the U.S. Canadian orders: $8.95 for the first book and $3.95 for each additional book. Send U.S. funds only. Make check payable to Universal Uclick and mail to: WONDERWORD, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, MO 64106. Credit card orders call 1-800-591-6570 ext. 6071 or visit www.wonderword.com

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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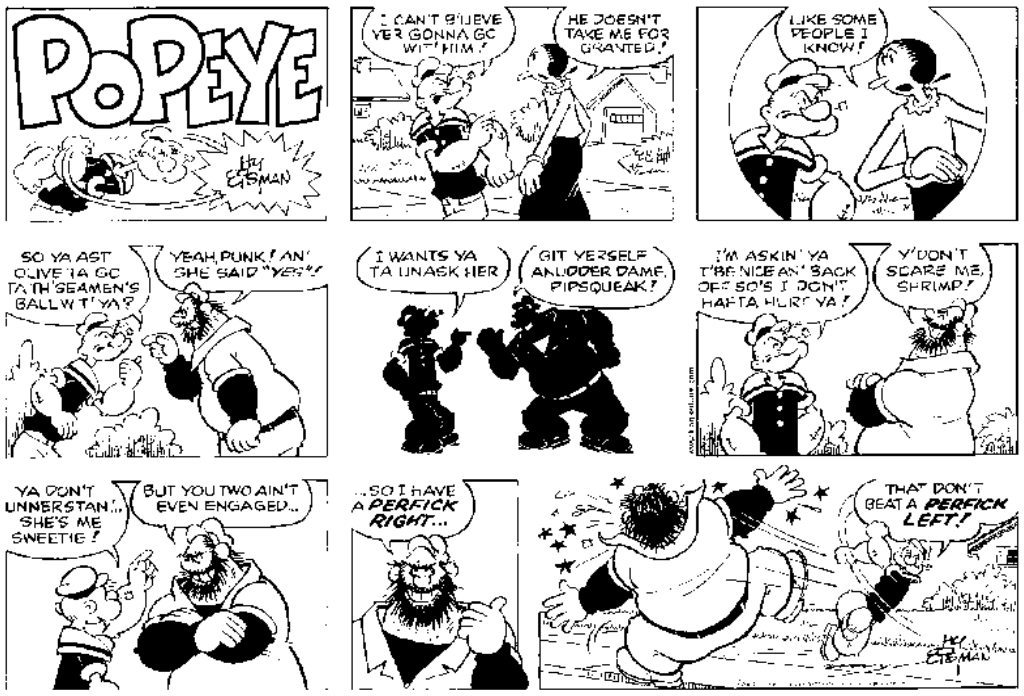
Differences: 1. Halo wire is missing. 2. Sign is different. 3. Boy is barefoot. 4. Robe has a border. 5. Cloud is missing. 6. Two stagelights are gone

Wishing Well®

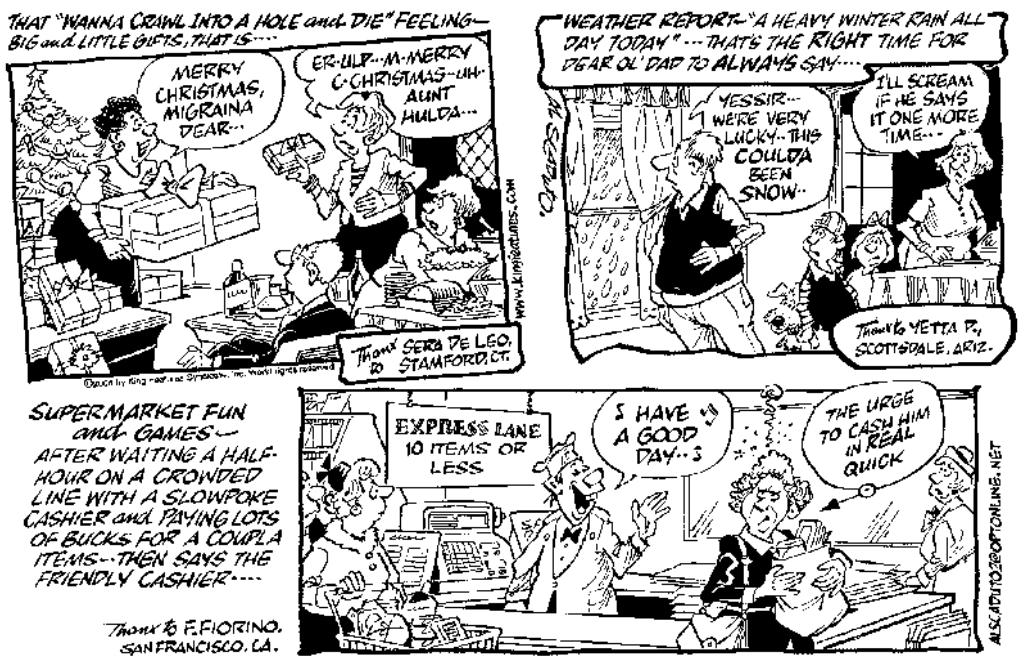
7	4	5	2	4	6	7	5	7	5	7	8	3
F	S	A	T	E	N	E	C	A	C	R	H	B
5	8	2	8	7	6	3	7	6	4	5	4	2
L	A	E	V	D	E	E	I	W	T	A	G	A
3	2	7	4	6	5	7	5	3	5	4	6	2
R	C	S	O	A	I	A	M	E	I	A	C	H
5	2	4	6	7	2	6	8	6	3	2	3	7
S	S	L	Q	P	U	U	E	A	A	C	S	P
4	3	7	6	3	2	5	7	4	2	6	2	4
S	O	E	I	N	C	Y	A	H	E	N	S	I
6	3	8	3	8	5	4	6	3	6	8	4	6
T	A	F	B	I	O	G	A	L	N	R	H	C
7	8	5	3	5	8	7	5	8	6	8	2	8
R	M	U	E	R	W	S	S	I	E	L	S	L

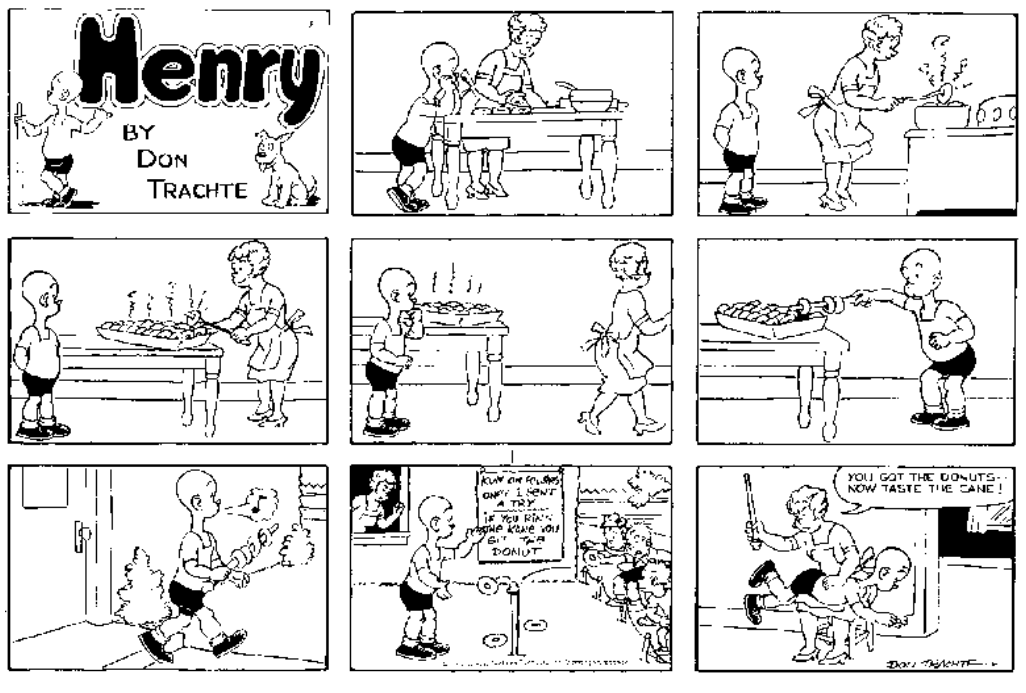
HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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They'll Do It Every Time — by Al Scaduto





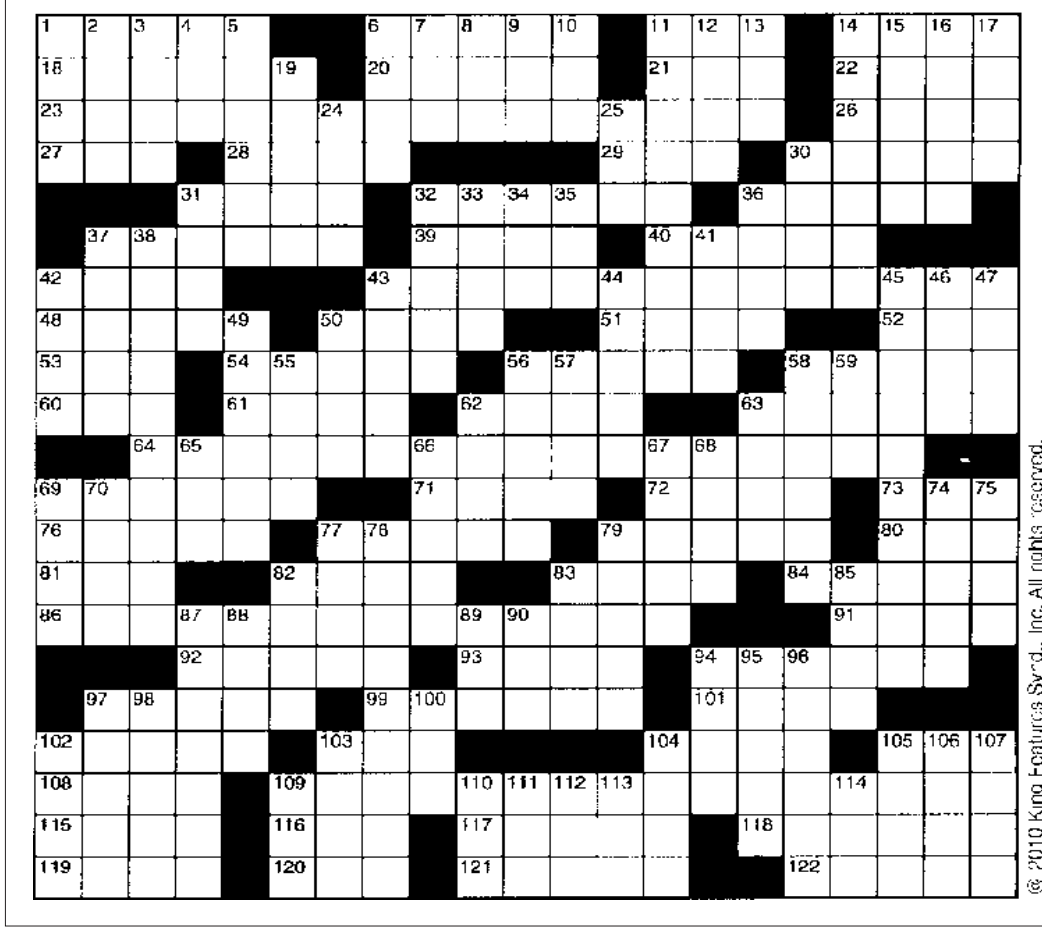
Super Crossword — WHEREABOUTS

ACROSS

1 Winning
6 In the know
11 Ingot
14 Nursery furniture
18 Hook's mate
20 Corday's prey
21 Flamenco dancer's shout
22 Mandlikova of tennis
23 "Sunrise Sunset" musical
26 Writer Hunter
27 Southern constellation
28 New Mexico resort
29 Med. test
30 Statistical focus
31 Unruffle
32 Reposes
36 Michael of "Little Voice"
37 Noxious atmosphere
39 Dock
40 Unburdens oneself
42 Ostentation
43 Alistair MacLean bestseller
48 On the — (defenseless)
50 Soft cheese
51 Schoenberg's "Moses und —"
52 — Magnon
53 Benjamin of The Cars
54 "Salome" character
56 Elbows
58 Implied
60 Like a bairn
61 Persia, today
62 Augur
63 Stratas or Stich-Randall
64 Hitchcock opus
69 Newspaper circular
71 Deride
72 Starting at
73 Gumshoe
76 Dirties
77 Impose Prohibition, e.g.
79 Propeller part
80 Actress Thurman
81 Part of USNA
82 Small businessman?
83 Fluctuate
84 Dais covering
86 Kiddie-fit classic
91 Envelope abbr.
92 — apso
93 Neighbor of Saudi Arabia
94 Rubble or Fife
97 Bobbin
99 Kyoto compan on
101 Jai
102 Thought-provoking
103 Our omega
104 Sacred image
105 Air-quality org.
108 Hasty
109 Old folk song
115 Kitchen addition?
116 Clay, later
117 Pale purple
118 Combat mission
119 Carries out
120 Regret
121 Grind one's teeth
122 Mike of "Austin Powers"

DOWN

1 — Romeo
2 It grows on you
3 Sherri's stories
4 Count up
5 Corinthian consonants
6 "— & Andrew" ('93 film)
7 Pallid
8 Cunning
9 Stadium shout
10 Nice season
11 Where to find romance
12 Easy as falling off —
13 Part pugilists
14 '66 Association hit
15 Glossy black
16 Pointless
17 Simple ring
19 Domain
24 Downey of "Touched by an Angel"
25 Agt.
30 Saucer powder
31 Promontory
32 Cuttlefish kin
33 Ve ez of "Mexican Spitf re"
34 "Annabel Lee" monogram
35 Pupil's place
36 Tribe
37 Opera's Grace
38 Striking
41 Cain's nephew
42 Freighter front
43 Pitchfork part
44 Spoken for
45 Stress
46 Author Murdoch
47 "— creature was stirring . . ."
49 Prepares eggs
50 Grain husk
55 Part of Q.E.D.
56 Emulated Elie
57 Scent
58 — up (united)
59 "Exodus" protagonist
62 Submachine gun
63 Walked
65 — Aviv
66 VCR button
67 Black piano key
68 Hors d'oeuvre holder
69 "It — Right" ('56 song)
70 First zookeeper?
74 TV's "— Nest"
75 Columnist Herb
77 Geometry term
78 Williams' was glass
79 Botswana bigwig
82 List ender
83 Asian title
85 Asian title
87 Duds
88 Crow's-nest cry
89 — polloi
90 Printer's measures
94 Cantata composer
95 Fugard's "A Lesson from —"
96 Liberation
97 Cold-war assn.
98 Ersatz emerald
100 Cartoon cry
102 Hoarse horse?
103 South African native
104 Craving
105 "Harper's Bazaar" artist
106 Brace
107 Blows away
109 Gob
110 Actress Taina
111 Chinese principle
112 Stevedores' grp.
113 Advisory org.
114 Go for it



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Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. GEOGRAPHY: Where is the Alamo located?
2. TELEVISION: What was the name of the father on "The Brady Bunch"?
3. U.S. STATES: Which state was the first, by law, to give women the right to vote?
4. ENTERTAINERS: Where did Elvis Presley die?
5. ANATOMY: Where are the triceps muscles located?
6. ART: Which impressionist painter created a series of famous works of his garden at Giverny?
7. U.S. PRESIDENTS: In which branch of the military did Gerald Ford serve during World War II?
8. HISTORY: How many people died as a result of the Boston Massacre in 1770?
9. CARTOONS: In the animated series, where did Yogi Bear live?
10. LANGUAGE: What is a sobriquet?

Answers

1. San Antonio, Texas
2. Mike Brady
3. Wyoming, in 1869
4. At his estate, Graceland, in Memphis, Tenn.
5. Upper arm
6. Monet
7. Navy
8. Five
9. Jellystone Park
10. A nickname

Saturday's Answers



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The Spats — by Jeff Pickering



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• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
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- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

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Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Some conditions may apply

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Diesel Mechanics
Please call 233-6183
Fax Bio data to 233-6828

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PIC Management

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December 04, 2010 • 8am - 5pm
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near Botanical Garden
follow signs

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James has 38 in homecoming, Heat win

CLEVELAND (AP)—LeBron James insisted it was nothing personal. The final score said otherwise.

James scored a season-high 38 points—24 in a third-quarter clinic—to lead the Miami Heat in a 118-90 blowout win over the Cavaliers, taming a hostile Cleveland crowd even before halftime Thursday night.

"I have the utmost respect for this franchise, the utmost respect for these fans," James said afterward. But he spent part of the second half taunting Cleveland's bench.

The game that mattered most to the franchise turned into its worst loss of the season so far.

"I thought he played great," Cavs coach Byron Scott said. "Simple as that."

It was James' first game back in the city where he played for seven years and won back-to-back MVP awards, but failed to win an NBA championship.

Before the game, fans peppered him with obscene chants and booed every time he appeared on the giant TV screens beneath the scoreboard. They held up signs that read, "Quitness" and "Play Like It's Game Five"—a reference to his playoff failure against Boston last season, when many fans—and owner Dan Gilbert—felt James had quit. There were five guys wearing a single letter each on their white T-shirts that spelled out: LeBum.

Dwyane Wade added 22 points, James Jones 18 and Chris Bosh 15 for the Heat, which played its most complete game of the season to improve to 12-8.

"This is the first time I have seen this connection all year long," said coach Erik Spoelstra, who's come under criticism for the team's slow start.

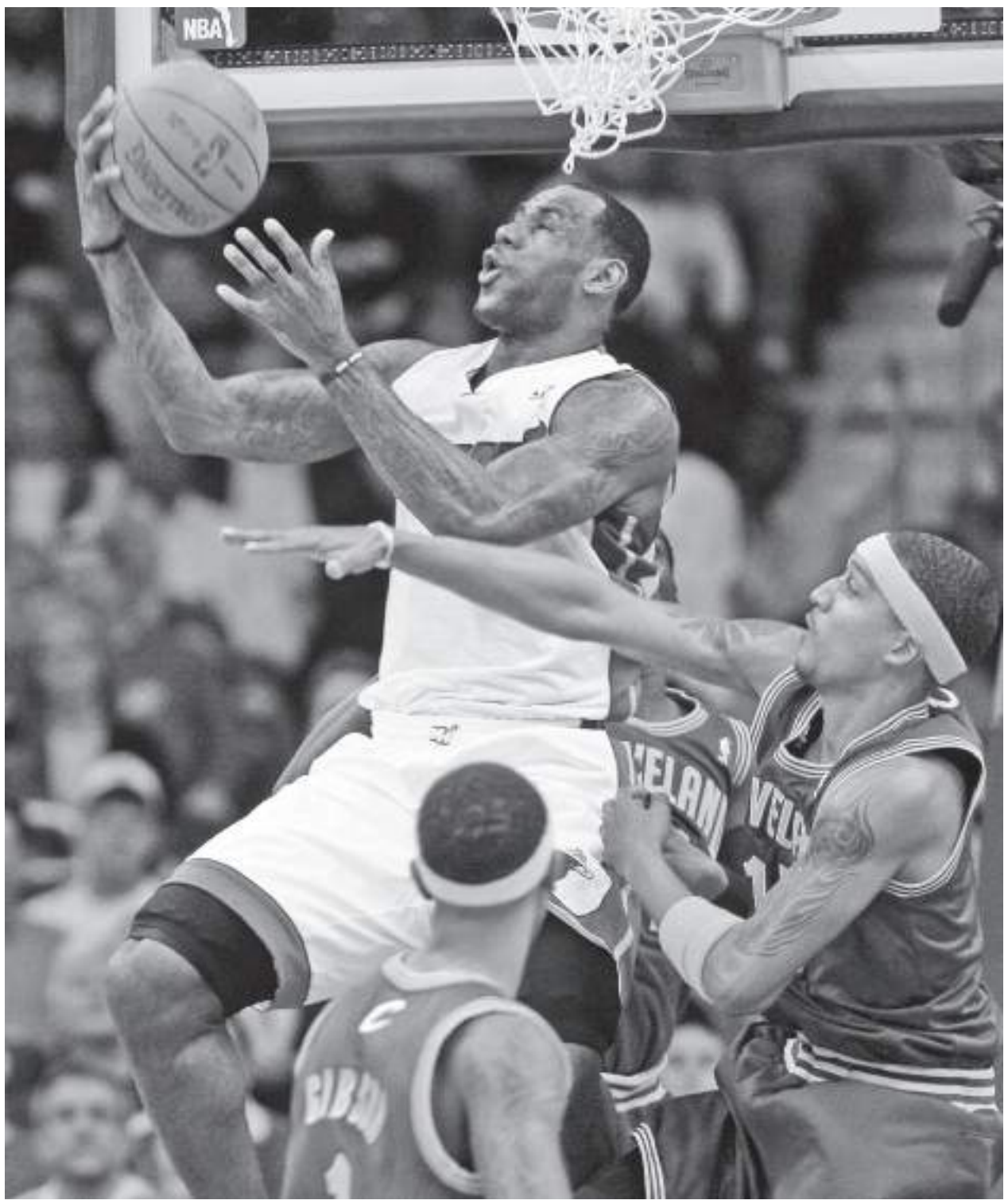
Daniel Gibson scored 21 for the Cavaliers, who have lost six of eight and now play seven of their next eight on the road.

James had 10 more points than Cleveland's starting lineup, including half during a 16-0 first-quarter run that immediately knocked the Cavaliers back. Ahead by 19 at the half, the Heat poured it, shooting 73 percent from the field in the third quarter. James went 10 of 12 during that stretch and Wade hit all four of his attempts.

James sat on the bench for all of the fourth quarter, with dozens of security guards and police lining the team's entrance to the court and guarding against objects thrown at him. After the clock ran out, he left without incident.

Throughout the game, James frequently bantered with his former coaches and fans at courtside.

"I turned one time and he was down there, talking," Scott said. "That's what he does most games. He talks to most guys on the bench."



AP

Miami Heat forward LeBron James, top, jumps to the basket against the Cleveland Cavaliers in the first quarter in an NBA basketball game Thursday, Dec. 2, 2010, in Cleveland.

The early spurt left a crowd of 20,562 with nothing left to cheer except James' occasional missed shot. He didn't miss many, finishing 15 of 25 from the field, to go with eight assists and five rebounds.

He never apologized to Cleveland or its fans, but said he appreciated the way he was treated as a young pro.

"So many things went through my mind," James said. "I have nothing bad to say about these fans at all. We grew from the year before I got here, a 17-win season to the last two years I was here, we had the best team in the league in the regular season. I understand their frustration. I was frustrated also because we didn't accomplish what we wanted to. I wish this organization and these fans, who are great, the best."

Cleveland native and game show host Drew Carey, Browns icon Bernie Kosar, Indians slugger Travis Hafner and most of the current Browns were cheered wildly when they made their way to courtside seats. Cincinnati Bengals receiver Terrell Owens even was in attendance.

By far, the loudest cheers were saved for Cavs owner Dan Gilbert, who had ripped James after his decision, saying he quit on the Cavaliers during their season-ending playoff series with the Celtics last spring.

It didn't take long for the Heat to find their sense of urgency.

"It felt like a playoff game for us," Spoelstra said.

Suns 107, Warrios 101

At Oakland, Calif., Jason Richardson scored 25 points against his former team and Grant Hill added 24 in leading the Phoenix Suns to victory over the Golden State Warriors.

Steve Nash added 13 points and matched his season high with 16 assists as the Suns beat Golden State for the ninth time in 11 meetings. Channing Frye had 10 points and 10 rebounds.

Monta Ellis scored 38 points for the Warriors, who have lost four straight at home and seven of eight overall. David Lee added 25 points and Dorell Wright had 10 points and a season-high 10 rebounds.

NBA BRIEFS

Jordan to AP: 'Nothing to do' with LeBron video

CLEVELAND (AP)—Michael Jordan is telling The Associated Press that he had nothing to do with a viral video that mocks LeBron James. The video looks so much like a real commercial that Jordan felt compelled to say he wasn't part of it. "I had absolutely nothing to do with it, Nike had absolutely nothing to do with it," Jordan said. The NBA great told the AP in a telephone interview Thursday that he didn't even know about the video until one of his kids sent it to him. The video making the rounds pokes fun at a Nike ad in which James asks, "What should I do?" The fake video ends with a voiceover of Jordan saying, "Maybe you're just making excuses." Jordan spoke to the AP on the day that James was set to make his return to Cleveland as a member of the Miami Heat.

Hawks' G Joe Johnson has surgery on injured elbow

ATLANTA (AP)—Hawks star Joe Johnson has had surgery on his injured right elbow and will be begin rehab on Friday. Johnson underwent arthroscopic surgery Thursday on his elbow in a 25-minute procedure performed by orthopedist Dr. James Andrews at a clinic in Pensacola, Fla. Hawks spokesman Arthur Triche says the "surgery went fine." The four-time All-Star is expected to be out four to six weeks. Atlanta announced at the start of Wednesday night's game against Memphis that Johnson would need the surgery to remove a "loose body" in the elbow. Johnson has said the elbow has caused discomfort "off and on" this season. He told The Associated Press Wednesday that "it just got unbearable" Tuesday.

Nets make website available in Russian

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)—With a Russian owner and Russian sponsors, the New Jersey Nets have now decided to make their website available in what else—Russian. The Nets announced Thursday they are giving Russian-speaking fans the opportunity to connect with the team by making its website viewable in Russian. The website will be available at http://www.netsrussia.com . Russian-speaking fans will have access to articles, interviews with players, coaches and management, photos and ticket information. Russian billionaire Mikhail Prokhorov purchased a majority share of the team in May, 2010. The franchise has sponsorship deals with Aeroflot, Russia's leading air carrier, and vodka company Stolichnaya.

Source: Rivera, Yanks close at $30M

NEW YORK (AP)—Mariano Rivera and the New York Yankees are close to an agreement on a two-year contract for about $30 million, a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press.

The person spoke early Friday on condition of anonymity because no announcement was made. The person said negotiations were not quite complete.

While talks with Derek Jeter have gone slowly, negotiations with Rivera, who turned 41 this week, had proceeded smoothy.

Co-chairman Hank Steinbrenner said Thursday night that the sides were moving toward a deal.

"I think you can be pretty confident in Mo," he said. "We're looking good."

Earlier Thursday, the Yankees increased their contract offer to Jeter.

The team informed Jeter's side of the new offer during a telephone conversation early Thursday, a person familiar with the negotiations said. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because no announcement was made.

"The ball's in Derek's court now, and his agent," Steinbrenner said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press. "It's up to them."

Jeter's agent, Casey Close, declined comment. But since negotiations resumed Tuesday, talks have appeared to gain a little momentum.

"We don't know how happy they are. We'll see," Steinbrenner said. "There's no possible way anybody could criticize us for what we've offered."

New York opened with a $45 million, three-year proposal last month, then awaited a formal counteroffer from its captain. It was not known whether the new offer improved the value, contract length or both.

Before the sides met this week in their first session since Nov. 8, Close had suggested a contract averaging about $23 million for four or five seasons.

While negotiating with their own players who became free agents, the Yankees are anticipating talks will intensify at next week's winter meetings with Cliff Lee. Among other team's free agents, the 32-year-old left-hander is New York's No. 1 priority.

"It's no secret we want Cliff, and we will do what we can to get him," Steinbrenner said. "That's the bottom line."

Vick rallies the Eagles to win over Texans

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Michael Vick shook off all the hard hits, continued to get up off the ground and kept making plays.

Vick threw for 302 yards and accounted for three touchdowns, rallying the Philadelphia Eagles to a 34-24 victory over the Houston Texans on Thursday night.

Vick was hurried, harassed and battered throughout the game. But he never stayed down despite taking a bunch of jarring hits, and scored the go-ahead touchdown on a 2-yard run.

"He got knocked around a little bit," coach Andy Reid said. "He got back up and kept going. I loved his energy in the second half. Both sides of the ball, he was firing them up."

It was the first time Vick led the Eagles (8-4) back from a fourth-quarter deficit. They led 14-3 in the first half before falling behind 24-20.

"We did a great job battling back," Vick said.

Matt Schaub had 337 yards passing and two scores for the Texans (5-7). Andre Johnson had 149 yards receiving—four days after his hockey-like fight with Tennessee's Cortland Finnegan.

The NFC East-leading Eagles were coming off their first loss in a game that Vick started and finished. He was 5-0 before a 31-26 loss at Chicago.

Vick continued his remarkable comeback story with another outstanding performance. He completed 22 of 33 passes for two touchdowns, and had his third 300-yard game. Vick, a three-time Pro Bowl pick in six seasons with Atlanta, only had two 300-yard games coming into this year. He also ran for 48 yards and a score.

"This young man is playing as good as anybody I've seen play in the NFL and I've been doing it for a while," Texans coach Gary Kubiak said of Vick. "He's special and we just tried to contain him, but obviously he still had a big night. He's been doing it against a lot of people so. ... We had a couple of chances for turnovers. He gave us a couple of opportunities that we just didn't take advantage of."



AP

Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Michael Vick, left, scrambles past Houston Texans' Antonio Smith in the first half of an NFL football game Thursday, Dec. 2, 2010, in Philadelphia.

After the Texans took their first lead in the third quarter, the Eagles quickly answered. Vick sneaked in from the 2 to put Philadelphia ahead 27-24 early in the fourth. Vick's 33-yard pass to DeSean Jackson to the Texans 11 set up the score.

Vick drove the Eagles 87 yards on their next possession, and tossed a 5-yard TD pass to Owen Schmitt to extend the lead to 34-24. He celebrated with a side leap into coach Andy Reid.

A 19-yard pass to Brent Celek on third-and-19 kept that drive going. Celek was ruled stopped short of the first down, but the Eagles challenged the spot and replays showed he had enough yards.

Houston came out strong in the second half. Schaub tossed a 13-yard scoring pass to Arian Foster to complete a 79-yard drive and get the Texans within 20-17.

Then Houston's defense made a big play. Jason Allen intercepted Vick's deep pass and the Texans took over at their 14.

Vick's streak of 240 consecutive passes without an interception was snapped last week when a tipped ball was picked near the goal line.

The Texans marched downfield in 13 plays, with Foster running in from the 3 to make it 24-20. Schaub hit Johnson for 31 yards on third-and-17 to keep the drive alive.

Philadelphia's Jorrick Calvin returned the opening kickoff 102 yards, but a holding penalty on Clay Harbor nullified the touchdown.

That was no problem for the Eagles. They drove 88 yards and went ahead 7-0 on Vick's 1-yard TD pass to LeSean McCoy.

Vick connected with Jackson for 30 yards on the first play from scrimmage, and was 7 of 8 for 89 yards on the drive.

Jackson had two catches against the Bears, and was unhappy with his lack of production. He answered with three receptions for 84 yards.

McCoy ran in from the 4 on the next series, putting Philadelphia ahead 14-3. Vick scrambled 10 yards on third-and-8 to keep the drive going.

The Texans finally stopped the Eagles on their third possession—sort of. David Akers kicked a 36-yard field goal to make it 17-3.

Schaub then tossed an 8-yard touchdown pass to Jacoby Jones to cut it to 17-10. He connected with Johnson for a 42-yard gain to the Eagles 11 two plays earlier. Johnson had just returned after going to the locker room.

Late in the second quarter, Schaub made an errant toss that was intercepted by defensive lineman Trevor Laws and returned to the Texans 18. Laws fumbled, but the Eagles recovered.

Philadelphia wasted the field position. Jason Avant and Celek each dropped what should've been touchdowns, and the Eagles settled for a 22-yarder by Akers for a 20-10 lead.

The Eagles played without three-time Pro Bowl cornerback Asante Samuel, who missed his second straight game with a knee injury. Samuel leads the NFL with seven interceptions.

Philadelphia is now a half-game ahead of the New York Giants (7-4) in the NFC East. New York plays host to Washington on Sunday.

"They are a good team and this is a tough place to play," Schaub said. "We had a good plan, we kept fighting back. It just wasn't enough in crunch time to do it."

Tiger Woods takes the lead in his tournament

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. (AP)—Those streaks of good play from Tiger Woods keep getting a little longer.

In one of his most complete rounds of the year, Woods missed only two greens and putted for eagle four times Thursday on his way to a 7-under 65 for a one-shot lead over U.S. Open champion Graeme McDowell and Rory McIlroy in the Chevron World Challenge.

Woods made it all the way until the 18th hole before an old flaw crept into his new swing. He popped up his tee shot, forcing him to pitch out from behind a tree and two-putt from 50 feet to escape with bogey. Even so, he matched his best score of the year, and was atop the leaderboard for only the second time in his troublesome season.

About the only club that didn't cooperate was his new putter, although that's nothing new. If anything has held Woods back from at least having a few chances at contending, it's not making many putts.

Great iron play made up for that at Sherwood Country Club.

"It's not too often you can say I shot 65 and only made one putt, but that's kind of what I did today," Woods said. "I only made one putt and it was on 9. The rest were either two-putts or kick-ins. It was a good ball-striking day."

The putt on the par-4 ninth was from about 15 feet with significant break. Equally impressive were some of his shots into the par 5s, particularly the 3-iron into No. 2. Woods hit it so clean that he twirled the club, a sure sign of a good shot.

He hasn't done much twirling this year.

"I have not," Woods said. "Usually, it's point which way the ball is going to go—incoming somewhere."

McDowell and McIlroy, the Northern Ireland duo who lost only one match at the Ryder Cup, would have been tough to beat in fourballs at Sherwood. They were paired together had would have had a best-ball score of 61. On their own, each settled for a 66.

"A lot of birdies out there between us," McDowell said, and that includes a pair of eagles on the par-5 11th.

Dustin Johnson faltered on the back nine and shot a 69, along with Stewart Cink, who is trying out a new putter and a new putting grip with an eye toward 2011. Luke Donald and Camilo Villegas each had a 70, and no one else broke par.

With warm temperatures and a clear sky, the greens were quicker than usual. Sherwood has its share of trouble that is not hard to find, and that accounts for a few high scores. Anthony Kim is bringing up the rear at 79.

This is Woods' last chance to win a tournament in 2010, but it looks more like he is geared toward next season. It was his second straight 65, having closed with that score in the Australian Masters a few weeks ago.

This round, however, was different.

In Australia, he made two eagles on the last four holes and played his final six holes in 6-under par for his 65. In his singles match at the Ryder Cup, he played the last seven holes in 7 under.

This time, Woods looked solid from start to ... well, almost the finish.

"It was beautiful, wasn't it?" he said of his tee shot on the 18th.

Woods missed a few shots along the way, making one amazing par on the 12th from behind the green with a flop shot that lipped out. But whenever his swing got loose, he fixed the problem during the round, not on the range the next day.

"It's like what I told you guys earlier in the week, it's a process," he said. "I was putting together streaks of holes earlier—two, three, four, five holes of this—and then I'd lose it for a little bit. Eventually, I needed to get to a full round and then eventually, a full tournament. And today was a full round, so that's a good start."

Woods has won his tournament the last two times he played, missing in 2008 because of knee surgery and last year because of the crisis unfolding in his personal life.

Previous wins have put a ribbon on a great year. This might be different.

"If you play well, it does give you a shot of confidence," Woods said. "I've played well in this event. I've won it a few times, and I've gone on to get off to quick starts the following year. Late in the season, a lot of guys are either traveling, not practicing or playing all over the globe. But for me, if I can end the year on a high note, it does give you a shot of confidence going into your practice sessions. Because you know what you were doing was working."

Some of his peers took notice, especially seeing him at 8 under with two holes left in his round.

"I heard he had been playing well, although I didn't see him hit a shot," Cink said.

Ian Poulter, who had a 72, offered this on Twitter: "No2 played well today, 7 under par and leading the field at the chevron world event, not far from his best going to take some beating."

That was a tweak at Woods having fallen to No. 2 in the world. The question has always been how long it would stay that way.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	14	4	.778	–
New York	10	9	.526	4 1/2
Toronto	7	11	.389	7
New Jersey	6	13	.316	8 1/2
Philadelphia	5	13	.278	9

Southeast Division

Orlando	14	4	.778	–
Atlanta	12	7	.632	2 1/2
Miami	12	8	.600	3
Charlotte	6	12	.333	8
Washington	5	12	.294	8 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	9	7	.563	–
Indiana	9	8	.529	1/2
Cleveland	7	11	.389	3
Milwaukee	6	12	.333	4
Detroit	6	13	.316	4 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	15	3	.833	–
Dallas	14	4	.778	1
New Orleans	13	5	.722	2
Memphis	8	11	.421	7 1/2
Houston	6	12	.333	9

Northwest Division

Utah	15	5	.750	–
Oklahoma City	13	6	.684	1 1/2
Denver	11	6	.647	2 1/2
Portland	8	10	.444	6
Minnesota	4	14	.222	10

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	13	6	.684	–
Phoenix	9	9	.500	3 1/2
Golden State	8	11	.421	5
Sacramento	4	12	.250	7 1/2
L.A. Clippers	4	15	.211	9

Yesterday's Games
Miami 118, Cleveland 90
Phoenix 107, Golden State 101

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	9	2	0	.818	334	266
N.Y. Jets	9	2	0	.818	264	187
Miami	6	5	0	.545	205	225
Buffalo	2	9	0	.182	229	295

South

Indianapolis	6	5	0	.545	282	252
Jacksonville	6	5	0	.545	240	294
Tennessee	5	6	0	.455	257	218
Houston	5	7	0	.417	288	321

North

Baltimore	8	3	0	.727	250	188
Pittsburgh	8	3	0	.727	254	181
Cleveland	4	7	0	.364	216	229
Cincinnati	2	9	0	.182	225	288

West

Kansas City	7	4	0	.636	285	231
San Diego	6	5	0	.545	310	225
Oakland	5	6	0	.455	255	256
Denver	3	8	0	.273	250	323

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

Philadelphia	8	4	0	.667	344	281
N.Y. Giants	7	4	0	.636	277	240
Washington	5	6	0	.455	215	262
Dallas	3	8	0	.273	256	301

South

Atlanta	9	2	0	.818	276	209
New Orleans	8	3	0	.727	265	197
Tampa Bay	7	4	0	.636	219	223
Carolina	1	10	0	.091	140	276

North

Chicago	8	3	0	.727	222	172
Green Bay	7	4	0	.636	269	166
Minnesota	4	7	0	.364	189	239
Detroit	2	9	0	.182	258	282

West

Seattle	5	6	0	.455	209	275
St. Louis	5	6	0	.455	213	231
San Francisco	4	7	0	.364	187	225
Arizona	3	8	0	.273	194	319

Yesterday's Game
Philadelphia 34, Houston 24

CHEVRON WORLD CHALLENGE SCORES

THOUSAND OAKS, California (AP)–Scores Thursday from the $5-million Chevron World Challenge at the par-72, 7,052-yard Sherwood Country Club:

FIRST ROUND

Tiger Woods	32-33–65
Rory McIlroy	33-33–66
Graeme McDowell	32-34–66
Dustin Johnson	33-36–69
Stewart Cink	35-34–69
Luke Donald	38-32–70
Camilo Villegas	35-35–70
Ian Poulter	38-34–72
Hunter Mahan	36-36–72
Sean O'Hair	38-34–72
Jim Furyk	38-34–72
Steve Stricker	37-35–72
Nick Watney	37-35–72
Paul Casey	34-39–73
Matt Kuchar	38-37–75
Zach Johnson	38-37–75
Bubba Watson	39-37–76
Anthony Kim	39-40–79

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Salalila, Saracho top SRCRRC November races

Paul Salalila and Jojo Saracho won their respective 1/8 Nitro Stadium Truggy Class and 1/10 Electric 2WD November races last Sunday at the As Lito racetrack.

Coming off a win last month, Salalia won the pole this time around and went on to notch his second win in a row.

Last month's pole winner Rodney Catalla had to settle for second place just like he did back in October and Rommel Isidiro rounded out the third spot.

Salalila races for Kyosho STRR in the Truggy division, Catalla for Team Associated RC8T, and Isidiro under Mugen MBX5T.

In the 1/10 Electric Short Course Class, RC sponsor Traxxas Slash took all three spots on the podium again this month. All three place finishers beat out top qualifier Saracho with Catalla taking the checkered flag. Behind him came runner-up Leo Gatus and Paul Guerrero in third place.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

November's Saipan Radio Control Racers Club Truggy class winner Paul Slalilia, center, poses with runner-up Rodney Catalla, left, and third place finisher Rommel Isidro after Sunday's monthly race at the As Lito racetrack.

Organized by the Saipan Radio Control Racers Club, the monthly races attract most of the club's over 20 members. Members also regularly hold weekly practices at the As Lito racetrack on Saturdays from 2pm to 6pm.

In addition, the SRCRC also tries to hold a monthly race one Sunday per month as a whole day event from 9am to 5pm in their two racing classes. The public is welcome to check out the track to learn more about their unique sport hobby.

For more information about SRCRC, contact Catalla at 234-5911, 256-7119, or email drrc35@yahoo.com. ***(Walter Sutherland)***

RUSSIA

From Page 28

body of world soccer, the much-maligned group certainly has a taste for adventure.

In taking the World Cup to the uncharted lands of Russia in 2018 and tiny but oil-wealthy Qatar in 2022, FIFA—like the International Olympic Committee—is leading the charge for the argument that sports can reshape history and influence the destinies and the way people and nations are seen by the rest of the world.

FIFA could have played it safe by going to the ready-built stadiums of the United States or to the sport's motherland of England. Both promised minimal worry and lots of cash. But the desire of FIFA's all-powerful, 74-year-old president, Sepp Blatter, to carry soccer and its considerable influence to promising and largely untapped markets won the day.

"We go to new lands," said Blatter, who next June will seek another four-year presidential term.

In doing so, FIFA is marching in lockstep with the Olympics, which went to China for the first time in 2008, celebrating the U-turn over one generation from Maoism to frontier capitalism in the world's most populous country. The IOC is now preparing for the first Olympics in South America, in Rio de Janeiro in 2016, rewarding Brazil's emergence as a major power. FIFA, meanwhile, is still basking in the praise it won for taking the World Cup to Africa for the first time in June, where vuvuzela-blowing black and white South Africans demonstrated how far they have moved on from apartheid.

Russia and Qatar are not without risk for FIFA—although with reserves of $1 billion and the sport wealthier and more popular than ever, it can afford a gamble or two.

In awarding two World Cups at the same time, FIFA aims to give itself more stable and long-term revenues from the tournament that underpins its wealth. It also means Blatter's influence will outlive his presidency. But it also leaves him and the 21 other VIPs on FIFA's executive committee open to suspicions that bidding nations might have colluded to secure their votes. The committee members voted behind closed doors and were furiously lobbied by statesmen, sheiks, sports stars and Britain's Prince William, who tossed in a joke about his upcoming wedding.

Russia, already spending massively on the Sochi Winter Olympics it will host in 2014, now has the added and greater challenge of readying airports, modern stadiums, trains and other public works it will need not only to host 32 football teams and millions of visitors but also to transport them efficiently from cities spread from the Baltic Sea in the west to the Ural Mountains that form the European boundary with Asia.

This will mark the first time the world's largest country, or even Eastern Europe, has organized a World Cup, a fact its team of lobbyists used to tweak FIFA voters' consciences.

Qatar, with a population of 841,000, has not only never hosted a World Cup but not even played in one. FIFA inspectors who toured the country, which is half the size of Israel and slightly smaller than Connecticut, cautioned that the intense heat in summer, when the tournament will be played, posed a potential health risk for players and fans.

Qatar allayed the fears of some—but not all—FIFA voters by promising that stadiums, training venues and areas for fans to party will be cooled with solar-powered air conditioning. But it has yet to be proven that the technology will work on such a broad scale, which prompted the American on FIFA's committee, Chuck Blazer, to quip: "I don't see how you can air-condition an entire country."

The United States presented no such challenges with its bid for 2022. With plans for matches in existing stadiums, it could have hosted the World Cup now. It did in 1994. Oscar-winning actor Morgan Freeman was among those who worked FIFA's corridors of power for the U.S. bid, hanging out into the night before the vote in the carpeted state room of the hotel where executive members stayed.

Former President Bill Clinton shared a personal memory with FIFA voters of watching his daughter, Chelsea, play soccer as a kid. But U.S. star power and promises of record profits and ticket sales couldn't match the novelty of Qatar and the prospect for FIFA of its first World Cup in the Middle East. With other 2022 bidders Australia, Japan and South Korea eliminated in earlier rounds, Qatar beat the United States in the final vote 14-8. Chicago also lost the 2016 Olympics to the new frontier of Rio when the IOC voted in October 2009.

"If that's what's going to resonate, it would be good if everyone would let us know," said the disappointed chairman of the U.S. bid, U.S. Soccer Federation President Sunil Gulati.

Landon Donovan, the midfielder whose game-winning goal against Algeria spared the United States early elimination from this year's World Cup, was more understanding.

"When you hear President Blatter talk about his goals, he wants to spread soccer around the world. And you can't begrudge him that. You have to commend him for that, and these two decisions will certainly do that," Donovan said.

He added that he expects Qatar's heat-beating technology to work.

"I grew up in the desert, in California, and running in 100-degree heat was miserable and at times dangerous," he said. "I'm sure it's not cheap, the technology to do that, but I can't imagine after all they put into this bid that they are not going to follow through and make sure that the World Cup is run very well."

At malls in Doha, people gathered at electronic shops to watch the voting on television. There were roars when Blatter pulled "Qatar" out of the envelope. Qataris and others—including workers from south Asia—immediately started dancing in the streets along Doha's Gulf waterfront, some blowing vuvuzelas that provided the droning soundtrack to South Africa's World Cup.

Qatar is promising to spend $50 billion on infrastructure upgrades and $4 billion to build nine stadiums and renovate three others. It also is promising more sports for women—in contrast to the hostility shown to female athletes in neighboring Saudi Arabia.

The Qatari bid chairman, Sheik Mohammed bin Hamad Al-Thani, said he hopes its World Cup can change the "wrong perception" that women are oppressed in the Middle East.

Russia comfortably beat England and joint bids from Spain-Portugal and Belgium-Netherlands for 2018. Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin immediately hopped on a plane to Zurich, having earlier opted not to join the last-minute lobbying efforts.

Putin had said he didn't want to pressure FIFA's committee members, who, ahead of their vote, faced intense media scrutiny about alleged corruption and vote-trading. FIFA suspended two committee members for ethics rule-violations, leaving 22 voters. Putin may have won some over in taking their side against what he called a "clear" smear campaign.

TURKEY

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awardees for the 2010 season. Winners will be feted during the 2010 NMASA Awards Banquet, which is expected to take place in February next year.

Meanwhile, NMASA is reminding sports federations to submit their nominations for the 2010 Coach of the Year and Hall of Fame in writing in the January meeting.

Elias Rangamar took the Coach of the Year award last season, while tennis' Jeff Race and golf's Frank Castro were inducted to the 2009 class of the CNMI Hall of Fame.

Other major awardees last season were athletics' Yvonne Bennett, Matthew Mancao, and Jacque Wonenberg, and tennis' Ji Hoon Heo.

Bennette, who is now based in Idaho, notched her third straight NMASA Female Athlete of the Year award, while Heo took her first NMASA Male Athlete of the Year plum after getting the student award in 2008.

Mancao and Wonenberg were named Male and Female Student Athletes of the Year with the former getting his first award and the latter earning her fifth in a row.

SSC

From Page 28

topped the 2008 edition of the fun run after clocking in at 17 minutes, 38 seconds. Matthew Mancao was the top finisher in the student division with his time of 17:45, while Nikki Gabaldon (20:49) and Gabrielle Race (28:59) ruled the women's and female student divisions, respectively.

About 100 participants joined the 2008 Annual Jingle Bell Fun Run.

For more information, contact Lisa Kimball at 322-7130 or via email at coach@saipanswimclub.com . ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

SIX

From Page 28

three-year reign in the junior varsity division.

The GCA Eagles will not be fielding a junior varsity team for the second straight time and will have their debut in the varsity division on Jan. 7 against the MCS Knights.

Games in the MISO boys caging will be played every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

Meanwhile, a coaches and officials meeting is scheduled for Dec. 9 at 6pm at the conference room of the MHS Gymnasium to discuss details about the league.

For more information, contact MISO acting president Nick Gross at 287-4767 or Glenn Smith at tenaday@yahoo.com or 287-3587.



Saipan Tribune
Sports



Turkey Trot winners take monthly awards

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Keum Bae Ji and Mamiko Oshima-Berger received an early Christmas gift when they were awarded the NMASA Male and Female Athletes of the Month award for November.

Keum and Oshima-Berger were selected from a pool of candidates during the NMASA monthly meeting last Thursday night at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, getting the association's nod after winning the 26th Annual Mt. Tapochao Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot Fun Run last Nov. 25.

Oshima-Berger ruled the women's division of the 4.2-mile run from Lower Base to the highest peak on the island after timing in at 42 minutes and 55 seconds. It was Oshima-Berger's third straight victory in the annual race and she did it in a record-breaking fashion, shattering her 2009 time of 43:56.

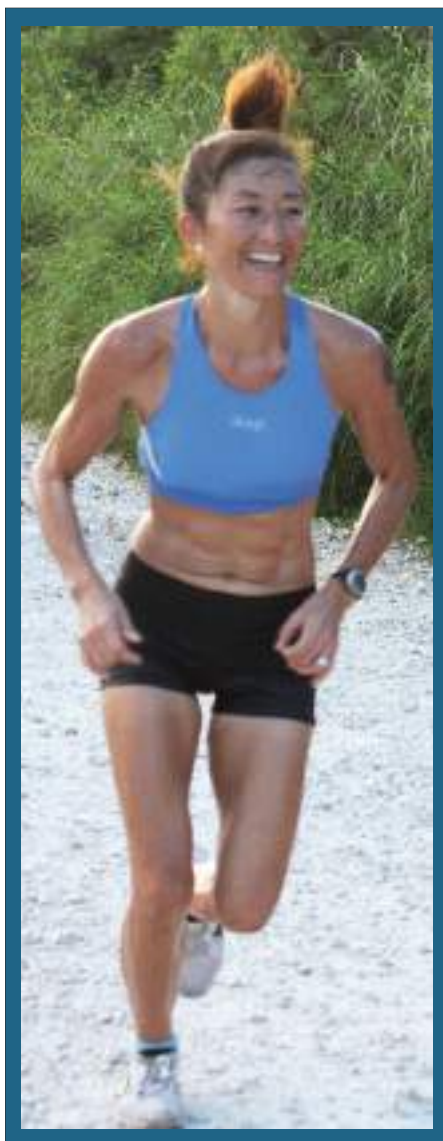
Keum had the fastest time in last month's race, clocking in at 39:22. The Korean runner won his first Turkey Trot Race and also crushed the 2009 winning time of dethroned champion Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel.

Keum prevailed over 98 runners, pulling away from second overall finisher Caesar Danao and third overall finisher Butch Sublemente in the last 500m meters of the race.

With Keum and Oshima-Berger winning the NMASA November Athletes of the Month awards, they now qualified for the coveted NMASA Athletes of the Year plums.

Winners of the yearly citations will come from the monthly

See TURKEY on Page 27


Oshima-Berger


Keum

Russia will host World Cup in 2018, Qatar in 2022

2014 · Brazil *Selected Oct. 2007*
- Last hosted in 1950; has won tournament a record five times: 1958, 1962, 1970, 1994, 2002
- 12 cities will host matches
- All stadiums are required to hold at least 40,000
- Final to be staged in Maracana Stadium; refurbished in 2006 with a capacity of 88,992

World Cup hosts

Russia and Qatar were announced as future hosts of the World Cup. As host, nation's team will automatically quality for the tournament.

2018 · Russia
Main stadium Luzhiniki Stadium, 78,360 capacity
Bid motto "Ready to Inspire"
- First time hosting
- Did not qualify for the 2010 tournament
- Concerns over the long distances between venues; 13 host cities, 16 stadiums

2022 · Qatar
Main stadium Lusail Stadium, 86,250 capacity
Bid motto "Expect Amazing"
- First time hosting
- State-of-the-art stadiums already in progress, budget of $3 billion
- Concerns of extreme heat and compact nature of country; 7 host cities

© 2010 MCT
Source: FIFA
Graphic: Melina Yingling

By JOHN LEICESTER
AP SPORTS WRITER

ZURICH (AP)—Picture soccer fans partying where tanks and missiles paraded on Red Square in the Cold War's darkest days. Imagine high-tech air-conditioned stadiums chilled so players and spectators don't keel over in the sweltering desert heat of the Middle East.

For all the allegations of corruption and rigged voting that have been leveled lately against FIFA, the governing

See RUSSIA on Page 27

Six teams vie for MISO boys caging title

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The 2010-2011 season of the Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Boys Basketball League will kick off on Jan. 5 with six teams battling for the varsity division title.

Leading the list is defending champion Kagman High School, which outlasted Saipan Southern High School in overtime in last year's finals, 66-56, en route to the Ayuyus' first varsity title since joining the MISO caging in 2003.

Southern will also field a varsity team, as it aimed to redeem itself from a loss last season. Completing the field are Marianas High School, Grace Christian Academy, and Mt. Carmel School.


ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Kagman High School and Saipan Southern High School players battle for the loose ball during their title game in last season's MISO boys caging at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The five Saipan teams will play in a double-elimination regular season to determine the rankings in the playoffs. In the playoffs running on Feb. 11 and 12, the Ayuyus and company will be joined by Tinian High School. The Tinian Stallions will automatically get the No. 3 seeding in the playoffs round, which will have a double-elimination format.

Opening the MISO boys caging season are the Manta Rays and Dolphins. Southern and MHS' junior varsity teams will play first at 4:30pm on Jan. 5, followed by the varsity division match. Only three teams—Southern, MHS, and Kagman—will vie for the junior varsity crown.

The Ayuyus are also this season's defending champions, having beaten Southern in the 2009-2010 finals, 48-41. Kagman's win ended the Rays'

See SIX on Page 27


DAN KIMBALL
Owen Gabbie, left, and Suzy Kindel cruise along Beach Road during the 2008 SSC Jingle Bell Fun Run.

SSC Jingle Bell Fun Run Dec. 8

Saipan Swim Club will be holding the 2010 Annual Jingle Bell Fun Run on Dec. 8

Registration will start at 4pm at the Garapan Fishing Base, while the race will begin at 5pm. Participants will run from the Garapan Fishing Base to Kilili Beach. Registration fee is $15 and the first 100 registrants get a free T-shirt. A raffle draw will be held after the race.

The SSC Jingle Bell Fun Run is returning this year after failing to have one last season.

Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel

See SCC on Page 27